

Mandela calls off peace meeting

JOHANNESBURG (R) — African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela has called off a meeting with Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthe which had been arranged to try to halt the warfare raging in South Africa's Natal province. An ANC statement said it hoped the meeting, scheduled for Monday, would be held at a later date, but was not the time for the warring leaders to share a platform. "The atmosphere is not yet ideal for a joint rally in Natal," the ANC said in a statement released through the South African Press Association. Mandela would still visit Natal Monday and Tuesday to visit areas affected by the running battles between his office in the United Democratic Front (UDF) anti-apartheid coalition and Buthe's Inkatha movement, the ANC said. Police say 37 people have died since Sunday in clashes between supporters of the UDF and Inkatha, but reports from other sources in the area say the death toll may be almost double that figure. The ANC decision to postpone the meeting, which would have celebrated in a joint rally addressed by South Africa's two most powerful black leaders, was taken after Mandela held a lengthy meeting with Natal officials of the ANC.

Jordan Times

An independent political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز صحيفة سياسية مستقلة بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الرأي"

Jerusalem Committee to meet

RABAT (R) — Islamic foreign ministers will meet in Morocco next week to discuss the status of Jerusalem, which the U.S. Senate this month called the "capital" of Israel. A Foreign Ministry source said Friday the Jerusalem Committee of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), chaired by King Hassan, would meet in Rabat on April 5. It will be the committee's 11th meeting since it was set up in 1975 and the first since January 1985. The source said the committee, composed of representatives of 14 Islamic states and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, would review Middle East peace efforts and the situation in the occupied territories. It would also map strategy to counter attempts to obtain international recognition of Jerusalem as the "capital" of Israel. The U.S. Senate passed a non-binding resolution last week urging Washington to acknowledge that Jerusalem "is and should remain the capital of the state of Israel."

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U.S. senators due here next week

AMMAN (J.T.) — U.S. Senate minority leader Robert Dole and five other senators are scheduled to pay a one-day visit to Jordan next week, a source at the Arab Amman Chapter of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee said Friday. The source expected the senators to be received by His Majesty King Hussein and the discussion to cover the latest developments in the Middle East, and the recent adoption by the U.S. Senate of a resolution acknowledging Jerusalem as the "capital" of Israel.

Arab Maghreb Union appeals to Europe

TUNIS (R) — Five North African countries asked Western Europe Friday to give North African immigrants better protection and punish those responsible for a recent spate of racist attacks on them. A statement by Arab Maghreb Union foreign ministers said: "The ministers are deeply disturbed about this and ask the European countries where these attacks have been perpetrated to take the necessary measures to protect the rights, security and dignity of the North African community." The appeal was mainly directed at France. Racist attacks have received wide coverage in the French and North African press, especially after two North Africans were murdered in separate incidents in France earlier this month. Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali told the two-day meeting the campaign against North Africans had reached an intolerable threshold.

Kuwaiti journalists elect officials

KUWAIT (AP) — The editor-in-chief of an English-language daily newspaper, the Kuwait Times, was elected Friday as chairman of the Kuwait Journalists Syndicate. Yusef Al Olayan succeeds Ahmad Behbehani, editor of the weekly Al Yaqza magazine. Behbehani retained membership on the seven-member board, elected last week, after an acrimonious campaign, by the syndicate's 400 members. Among the issues about which they haggled was the relative ease with which newcomers were accepted as members. Four of the seven seats on the board went to four editors of daily newspapers who ran as a bloc with the avowed aim of purging the syndicate of so-called non-professionals, and upgrading the performance of the Kuwaiti press. They are also campaigning for lifting censorship imposed on the local press in July 1986 when the 50-member elected parliament was dissolved.

S. Arabia urges donations to Afghans

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia urged its citizens Friday to mark the Holy Month of Ramadan by donating money to rebels in Afghanistan. "The duty imposed by our Muslim religion calls on everyone of us to back our Mujahadeen brethren," said Prince Salman Bin Abdul Aziz, governor of Riyadh. "The Afghan Muslim people are now facing attempts to isolate them from their creed and obliterate their Muslim identity, but they are determined to continue the struggle until they achieve victory, with God's will," he said in a statement carried by the Saudi Press Agency.

U.S. to ease computer exports to Soviet Union

WASHINGTON (R) — In a major policy switch, the Defense Department announced Friday it would no longer block the export of many U.S. computers to the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, allowing the decision to be made solely by the Commerce Department. The Pentagon had previously jointly reviewed hundreds of such export requests along with the Commerce Department and the agencies had clashed publicly over whether technology involved might be used by the Soviet military.

Palestinians mark Land Day with rallies, protest marches

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Heavily reinforced army and police units broke up several demonstrations Friday as Palestinians and Israeli Arabs staged rallies and protest marches to commemorate "Land Day."

A general strike closed shops and schools throughout the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, in Arab Jerusalem and in Arab villages in Israel.

Land Day commemorates 1976 protests against Israeli confiscation of Arab land in the Galilee. Six Arabs were killed by Israeli police during the disturbances 14 years ago.

In a rare clash with Arabs inside Israel, police used tear-gas to disperse demonstrators after an hour of hit-and-run stone throwing by youths in the town of Taihbeh, reporters said from the scene. Israel radio said two fire-bombs also were thrown.

One policeman was stabbed while arresting stone throwers and hospitalized in stable condition and six other police were injured by stones, the radio said. At least five Arabs were taken into custody.

About 10,000 Israeli Arabs attended the main rally in Arraba, the village were two Land Day protesters were killed in

1976. A police helicopter hovered briefly over the crowd, but no police were deployed on the ground.

Before the four-hour rally, two people were injured when about 100 followers of the nationalist "Sons of the Village" waving Palestinian flags battled a group of communists with sticks.

Palestinians said soldiers shot dead Mohammad Al Salameh, 20, in Kafr Malek north of Jerusalem Thursday night.

The army placed the village, near Ramallah, under curfew.

Troops confined 750,000 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip to their homes and barred West Bank residents from entering Jerusalem for traditional mass prayers at Al Aqsa Mosque on the first Friday of the holy month of Ramadan.

Leaders of Israel's 650,000 Arab citizens appealed for a peaceful general strike and rallies to demand equal rights on Land Day.

But leaders of the 27-month-old Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip called for a day of violent protests.

Radio stations said the strike was partially observed in Arab areas of Israel and appeared total in the occupied areas.

Police said some 5,600 police and paramilitary border police were on guard inside Israel and 1,500 were drafted into occupied Jerusalem to prevent disturbances.

Arab Jerusalem was like a ghost town Friday with public transport halted, shops shuttered and large clusters of police in riot gear outnumbering Arabs on the streets.

Curfews were also in force in several West Bank refugee camps and the villages of Arrab and Banat Naim in the Hebron area, the army said.

Police removed Palestinian flags from several Israeli Arab villages, a sign of what some government officials say is an increasing identification of Israeli Arabs with the Palestinian nationalist cause.

But Mohammed Issawi, an Israeli Arab teacher interviewed on army radio, said: "The war is over the basic things... not as the media presents it as a move towards extremism, nationalism and those sorts of things. We simply want to feel equal."

"If I pay taxes and live in the state of Israel, there is no reason why I should not enjoy my rights," he said.

In the Arab town of Kafr Kan-

na, Abu Wahab Daroushe, an Arab member of Israel's parliament, read a message from Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to several thousand people at an annual memorial service for a teenager killed in 1976.

Arafat's message, sent by facsimile from Europe, praised Israeli Arabs "for igniting the first spark in 1976, which led to the great fire of the uprising." It also said Israelis who support negotiations with Palestinians were "heroic, democratic Jews willing to make the peace of the courageous, the brave."

In Jenin, hundreds of women and masked men marched carrying pictures of Arafat, reporters said.

On the walls of the town, which is north of Nablus, Palestinians had painted pictures of donkeys with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's name marked under them, they said.

In a counter demonstration, Jewish settlers set up Israeli flags in the West Bank to emphasize their demand that Israel not give up the occupied land.

The flags were flying on a road leading from the Jewish suburb of Gild on the outskirts of Jerusalem to the Dheishe refugee camp.

Baker switches tone on Jerusalem

WASHINGTON (R) — Secretary of State James Baker, in an apparent softening of U.S. opposition to Israeli "settlements" in Arab Jerusalem, has declared that Jews have the right to live in all parts of the Holy City.

In another development, a senior U.S. official said Washington was working to have the 1975 United Nations General Assembly resolution equating Zionism with racism reversed this year and saw good prospects of success.

Baker's statement on Jerusalem, which was markedly different from the tone struck by the administration last month, came in a letter to Congressman Mel Levine, a California Democrat, dated March 16.

In the letter, made available to Reuters, Baker said: "I am also very aware of the great significance which Jerusalem has for the Jewish people as well as for people of all religions. Clearly, Jews and others can live where they want, east or west, and the city must remain undivided."

President George Bush touched off a firestorm last month by stating his opposition to "Jewish settlement" in Arab Jerusalem as well as the occupied territories.

His remark helped cause a political crisis in Israel that led to the fall of the government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Successive U.S. administrations had for years turned a blind eye to the densely populated Jewish suburbs that have sprung up in Arab Jerusalem.

Bush was pressed by American Jewish leaders to reverse himself, but refused. The most he would say was that "Jews and others have the right to live there in the context of a negotiated settlement."

On the United Nations, Assistant Secretary of State John Bolton told a Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee that the United States was working hard through diplomatic channels to reverse the "Zionism equals racism" resolution.

"We believe that there is strong opposition to the resolution by a large and growing number of U.N. member countries. With this in mind, we are taking action and will intensify our efforts during the 1990 session of the General Assembly," Bolton said.

Iraq says it bought electrical capacitors not nuclear device

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq, adding detail to denials that it tried to buy triggers for nuclear weapons, says U.S.-made electrical components confiscated in Britain could have been used for many other purposes.

"It is easy to invent a link between the normal use of any highly advanced electronic or mechanical component and military purposes," an official source at the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialisation told the Iraqi News Agency (INA).

"Iraq did not violate any law of any other country. Iraq has the full right of technology transfer, just as all other world countries do," the source said.

The material which British authorities claimed to have discovered at London airport as nuclear triggers were merely electrical capacitors used for many industrial, scientific and engineering purposes and in the fields of electro-optics, fast electric discharge and plasma focusing systems.

A Lebanese engineer, a man with dual British-Iraqi citizenship and a French woman appeared in a British court Thursday charged with attempting to smuggle to Iraq 40 trigger devices for nuclear weapons. An employee at the Iraq Airways office in London was deported.

Prosecutors in San Diego, Cali-

fornia, who also released an indictment in the case, described the devices as "military electrical capacitors" and "munitions items."

They said their export to Iraq was banned because they "could have been used in nuclear and conventional weapons."

U.S. and British agents secretly replaced the capacitors with dummies after they were flown to Britain on their way to Iraq.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein said Thursday that enemies of the Arabs were trying to hinder Iraq's "march of progress."

"The fires are intensifying, whether by aggressions or conspiracies, but the Iraqi people will not be worn down," Hussein told a rally in Baghdad.

"If they think we will be worn down... they are fully mistaken," he told the rally, held to mark Land Day.

He said "enemies of the Arabs" were trying to hinder the country's "march of progress." He did not refer specifically to nuclear technology or nuclear weapons.

British Charge d'Affaires Robert Kealy was summoned to the Foreign Ministry and told that Iraq reserves the right to acquire advanced technology from other countries.

"Iraq which has signed the nuclear Non-Proliferation Trea-

ty, maintains its full rights to the transfer of technology from anywhere," he was told by Deputy Foreign Minister Nizar Hamdoun.

But in London, the Foreign Office denied any British diplomat was summoned to the Iraqi Foreign Ministry Thursday.

An Iraqi foreign ministry spokesman also said in a statement carried by the Iraqi News Agency that Iraq has the right to take "measures" based on the principle of reciprocity. It did not elaborate.

In Washington the State Department called in Iraq's ambassador Thursday and registered concern that Baghdad was trying to circumvent U.S. restrictions on nuclear technology shipments.

"We do not foresee a near-term Iraqi nuclear capability," spokesman Richard Bruecher said. "However, we remain concerned about the danger..."

Richard McCormack, the undersecretary for economic affairs, met with Ambassador Muhammad Al Mashat and "expressed our deep concern over Iraq's attempt to circumvent controls" over military items, a U.S. official said.

In an indictment unveiled Thursday, five people and two

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Herzog criticises rabbi, urges electoral reforms

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli President Chaim Herzog, in a rare intervention in politics, criticised statements by an ultra-orthodox rabbi who is pivotal to forming the next government and called for urgent electoral reform.

Rabbis, exploiting their sudden political leverage, reaped an unprecedented bonanza when approved early Friday approval a budget allocating three times more money to religious institutions than in 1989.

"In the light of present political events, I once again publicly express my opinion on the urgent need for change in the electoral system," Herzog said in his monthly radio talk.

Four religious parties, with 18 of the Knesset's 120 seats, hold the balance of power between Israel's two main parties struggling to form a government.

Herzog, a former general and diplomat, criticised a distributive week by 96-year-old rabbi Eliezer Schach, spiritual mentor of the

Shas and Degel Hatorah parties, against the secular Israeli left and the Kibbutz collective settlements.

Without naming Schach, he spoke of a "tendency to besmirch through generalisation entire groups" and said Israel did not realise how much it owed to the Kibbutzim.

Schach's remarks were widely seen as a blow to efforts by Labour Party leader Shimon Peres for a coalition to launch the first-ever peace talks with the Palestinians.

Parliament voted a record \$111 million for ultra-orthodox school and welfare institutions. (see page 6). The amount surpassed the \$100 million squeezed into the budget at the last minute to build houses for a flood of Soviet immigrants due in Israel this year.

Angry leftist parliamentarians said the price paid for the support of religious parties was tantamount to bribery.

In a poll published in the daily Maariv Friday, 53 per cent of

Israeli's questioned said the intervention of rabbis in politics was illegitimate.

"What is the point of putting price limits on bread, sugar and oil if there is no limit to the price of political bribery? How do we clean the shame?" said Yair Tsaaban, head of the leftist Mapam party.

Several parliamentarians argued the increase would jeopardise essential welfare programmes as Israelis grappled to absorb an influx of immigrants and slash an 8.9 per cent unemployment rate.

Long-bearded rabbis in black cloaks have become central figures in Israel's political arena since the collapse of a 15-month coalition between the rightist Likud and more dovish Labour Party over a U.S. peace proposal.

The Likud party of caretaker Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir obtained the extra funds for religious institutions thanks to its majority in the parliament finance committee.

Badran reaffirms Jordan's commitment to Palestinians

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Palestine represent the most vital part of Arab resistance against Zionist expansionism and any support extended to the 27-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza is support extended to Jordan and vice-versa, Prime Minister Mudar Badran said Friday.

Addressing a gathering at the Palace of Culture on the occasion of Land Day, the prime minister said that the "dangerous situation threatening us all and of which His Majesty King Hussein has warned, is the flow of thousands of Soviet Jews to Palestine."

Following are major excerpts from the prime minister's speech:

"We meet today to mark a dear occasion, which is Land Day, and we all agree that all our lives have been committed to the land and in defence of its rightful owners. Therefore, our stand on this occasion is not a stand based on a particular event, but a stand with a long march that the Palestinian Arab people have started and are continuing since the first (Israeli) aggression on their land, identity and national belonging since this moment and until victory of return to their soil is achieved."

"The reality which anybody can refute is that the Palestinian infitda has come to represent the Palestinian determination to refuse the status quo and it affirms the legitimate hopes and aspirations of the Palestinian people since it is a defence of the Palestinian national identity in governing their own soil and establishing their own independent state under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Supporting the infitda gains is of utmost significance since it constitutes the practical manifestations of our sincere desire to safeguard the identity of the Palesti-

nian land and the rights of the Palestinian people on their national soil. "We must add to this reality that maintaining Jordan as a powerful force of steadfastness is one of the most important symbols of support extended to the infitda. This truth is realised by both the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples as well as the enemies, who have been and are continuing to hit our steadfastness, with a view to weakening our national position and clearing the way for further expansion..."

"The national danger that is threatening us all, and of which His Majesty the King has warned, is inherent in the flow of thousands of Soviet Jews to the land of Palestine. His Majesty has been repeatedly stressed while we support human rights we are against any immigration at the expense of the human rights of the Palestinian people who were displaced from their land, including their right to return to their land. The

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Perez de Cuellar winds up visit

AMMAN (J.T.) — United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar was Friday winding up a private visit to Jordan during which he was received by His Majesty King Hussein.

Informed sources said the U.N. chief, who is due to begin a visit to Europe this week, was expected to leave late Friday or early Saturday.

In his meeting with the U.N. chief at Aqaba Wednesday, King Hussein reviewed with him the latest developments on the international scene, the Jordan News Agency, Petra said.

The King paid tribute to the important role played by the U.N. and stressed the need for enhancing this role, given the present detente in international relations.

King Hussein said that such enhancement of the U.N. role was needed to achieve solutions to various world conflicts, Petra said.

Perez de Cuellar thanked King Hussein for the invitation extended to him to visit Jordan and praised the democratic march which Jordan is currently pursuing and noted the achievements Jordan has made, it said.

The audience was attended by Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem, Jordan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Abdullah Saleh and the secretary-general's aides.

Perez de Cuellar will visit France, Greece, Britain and Belgium in a two-week tour beginning this weekend, according to U.N. officials.

They said the secretary-general was to arrive in France over the weekend. His exact itinerary was not disclosed for security reasons.

CAEU urges Kuwait to stay, pledges to adopt its proposals

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Council for Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) urged Kuwait Friday not to quit the group and said it had adopted Kuwaiti proposals to improve its performance.

The 13-member council asked it to "stay with its brethren during these tough conditions which the Arab Nation is passing through and which demand more Arab solidarity."

Kuwait said last week it was leaving the council because it had rejected several proposals for improvements.

In a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the Amman-based council said it had adopted all the suggestions.

These included defining its role to avoid duplication with similar Arab organisations, cutting salaries and staff and trimming the budget elsewhere.

Kuwait previously covered nearly a third of the council's budget but had failed to pay its

dues for the past four years and now owes more than \$1.5 million. The council, set up in 1964 to promote economic union, is an Arab League institution but participation is optional for league members.

Urging the Kuwaiti government to reconsider its decision, the statement said the CAEU General Secretariat "finds the circumstances through which collective Arab action, in general and economic action in particular, warrant more understanding and solidarity as a means of confronting dangers facing the Arab World, particularly Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine and the dangers threatening some Arab countries."

The statement said that the CAEU General Secretariat appreciates Kuwait's keen interest in joint Arab action and its aspirations that this action be a model for inter-Arab relations

and all Kuwaiti proposals to the council would be implemented.

"The CAEU will have a new organisational structure and will cut the salaries of the employees up to 25 per cent, and reduce about 25 per cent of its staff, review its holdings, define a budget ceiling of \$1,150,000 from \$3,500,000."

This will reduce Kuwait's contribution to 23.73 per cent instead of 27.78 per cent — a reduction to about \$218,000 annually instead of \$800,000."

The Arab World, with its national institutions, "is witnessing a restructuring period which will lead to Arab solidarity," it said. "The effective Egyptian participation in these institutions, which was achieved recently, has put them in a position to start once again with a new spirit... these aspects as a whole are a strong motive for Kuwait to reverse its decision," it said.

Bush sends appeal to Gorbachev over Lithuania

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President George Bush has sent Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev a personal message urging a peaceful resolution of the dispute between Moscow and Lithuania, the White House said Friday.

Bush's message expressed U.S. support for the aspirations of the Lithuanian people for self-determination and "expressed our emphatic view that the resolution of this conflict lies in dialogue," spokesman Martin Fitzwater said.

Fitzwater said Bush sent the message late Thursday after receiving a report from Massachusetts Democratic Senator Edward Kennedy on his meeting with Gorbachev in Moscow this week.

The official TASS news agency said U.S. Charge d'Affaires John Joyce delivered the letter to Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze on Friday.

"The president's message to President Gorbachev simply restated our position as stated many times," Fitzwater said.

Bush, speaking to reporters at a picture-taking session shortly after Fitzwater announced the

message, said he sent the message because he wanted to "make sure there was no disconnect" between himself and Gorbachev.

Bush has called for restraint and negotiations by Moscow in dealing with Lithuania's March 11 declaration of independence. The U.S. Senate passed a non-binding resolution supporting the independence call.

Soviet officials meanwhile made their first attempt Friday to take direct control of a Lithuanian government agency when the prosecutor's office tried to install its own man as the republic's chief prosecutor.

Most of the Lithuanian office's staff walked out in a show of loyalty to their Lithuanian boss, creating a stand-off with both men trying to run the office.

Gorbachev denounced the independence declaration as illegal, called on Lithuanians to turn over their firearms and ordered the republic to refrain from setting up border posts or creating a defence force.

The Soviet military also has detained Lithuanians who deserted from the Red Army after the independence drive.

It is all-out war in E. Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A ceasefire between rival Christian groups collapsed Friday as heavy fighting resumed between troops of renegade General Michel Aoun and warlord Samir Geagea's militiamen for control of Lebanon's Christian enclave.

"The ceasefire has collapsed. It's past history," said a police spokesman. "It's all-out war again."

Police reported savage combat in the central sector of east Beirut and in the mountains of Kesrouan province.

At least 25 people were killed but the tally seemed certain to rise.

Political sources said Maronite Christian political and church leaders, desperate to end an army-militia conflict that has killed 800 people since January, told Aoun Thursday they were ready to call in Lebanon's internationally-recognised president, Elias Hrawi.

West must make concessions on Lebanon hostages — Hizbollah

BEIRUT (R) — The leader of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah group said Friday Western states should make concessions to Tehran and its Lebanese allies to secure the release of 17 Western hostages held in Lebanon.

Sheikh Soubhi Toufaily, general secretary of Hizbollah (Party of God), told Reuters in an interview: "The basis of the hostage issue is the demands of the captors. The issue should be discussed at that level in order to be solved from its roots."

Eight Americans and three Britons are among those believed held in Lebanon by Muslim militants loyal to Iran. The hostage-takers have demanded the release of prisoners in Israel, Kuwait and other states.

Toufaily, speaking at his

heavily-guarded house in Beirut's Syrian-policed southern suburbs, said: "Iran, with its spiritual and cultural presence in Lebanon, can use its influence to solve the problem of some hostages."

But he added: "Why should Iran do a favour to America or Europe or solve a problem for this state or that while the other states are not willing to solve any of Iran's problems?"

"He who wants something from Iran should pay the price," Toufaily's remarks followed comments by other pro-Iranian

leaders and statements by hostage-takers pouring cold water on hopes that the hostages will be freed soon.

An Iranian newspaper sparked optimism about the hostages last month by calling for their unconditional release, saying the West was using the issue to tarnish the image of Muslims.

Iranian President Ali Akbar Rafsanjani said on March 7 that the issue was moving towards a solution. An Iranian Foreign Ministry official said last week that the captives could be freed by January.

Hizbollah is widely thought to be an umbrella organisation that includes kidnap groups, though it denies involvement in the abductions.

"The hostages are held by security groups that have nothing to do with Hizbollah or its leadership," Toufaily said. "We only hope this issue ends peacefully."

Toufaily, former commander of Hizbollah's military arm, the Islamic resistance, said the hostage issue was not linked to the fate of three Israeli soldiers captured by the group.

"The issue of the Israeli captives has nothing to do with the hostage issue... there are no talks whatsoever with Israel about its captives," he said.

Israel last year kidnapped Sheikh Abdul Karim Obaid, a leading Hizbollah cleric, and offered to swap him and other Shiite Muslim prisoners for the hostages and the Israeli soldiers.

U.K., France condemn settlements in E. Jerusalem

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Western nations have joined the U.N. Security Council debate on the flow of Russian Jews to Israel with both Britain and France saying Israeli settlements in the occupied territories were illegal, including those in East Jerusalem.

Canada as well as Finland condemned the settlements as contrary to international law under the fourth Geneva Convention but neither nation specifically mentioned East Jerusalem.

Four days of debate have been held since March 15 on settlements in Israeli-occupied territories because of Arab fears that new Soviet emigration policies could result in as many as 100,000 Jews reaching Israel in 1980.

A number of proposals for resolutions are circulating since the Soviet Union requested the meeting but no definitive text has emerged. Arab nations want the settlements declared illegal and demand that all states, particularly the United States, stop providing Israel with aid that could be used to settle Jews in the territories.

In contrast, U.S. proposals for a resolution regret Israeli policy but do not declare settlements illegal.

French Ambassador Pierre-Louis Blanc criticised recent Israeli appeals for increased Jewish settlements in the territories, saying: "Such declarations can in no way create the climate of confidence that is essential for any progress towards a peaceful solution of the Israeli-Arab conflict."

Japan gives \$2 million for Palestinians under occupation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Japan has decided to extend \$2 million emergency aid in cash for the procurement of food for the Palestinian refugees through the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in view of the deteriorated living conditions of the Palestinian refugees in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, according to a Japanese Embassy press release received in Amman.

The uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip has continued since December 1987, resulting in more than 800 Palestinians dead and over 30,000 injured.

"Because of the severe mea-

New Iraqi launchers reportedly extend missile range to Israel

NEW YORK (R) — Iraq has built for the first time launchers for missiles which could reach as far as Tel Aviv, the New York Times reported Friday.

Citing a classified Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) report prepared early this month, the newspaper said the missile launchers have provoked concern among senior Bush administration officials.

But the paper reported that U.S. intelligence experts believe the missiles are intended in part to discourage any Israeli attack on Iraqi chemical or nuclear weapons installations.

American intelligence about the missile launchers was disclosed before the arrests Wednesday of five people in London in connection with the smuggling of Iraq-bound electrical devices, the New York Times said.

The intelligence report said six launchers had recently been completed at its H-2 airfield, which the paper reported an administration official said was built by the British and is in western Iraq, on the road between Baghdad and Jordan.

U.S. intelligence experts say they believe the launchers are for Iraq's Al-Husayn surface-to-surface missile, a 640-kilometre version of the Soviet-designed Scud missiles which Iraq used against Iran in the eight-year Gulf war.

According to the report, the launchers were the first stationary ones — which experts say are more accurate — Iraq

has built within range of Tel Aviv.

"If true, we would be very concerned. We are concerned about the destabilising effects of the spread of ballistic missiles and missile technology, especially in areas of tension," the New York Times quoted White House spokesman Roman Popadiuk as saying.

An unidentified senior administration official said Iraqi officials had signalled to foreign diplomats the launchers would be used to retaliate against an Israeli pre-emptive attack against Iraqi military installations, the New York Times reported.

A spokesman for the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency said the CIA does not comment on such reports as a matter of policy.

Additionally, Iraq has a well-advanced nuclear weapons programme and is believed to have missiles that can hurl warheads thousands of miles, according to expert congressional testimony little noticed until a detonator-smuggling case spotlighted the issue.

Rear Admiral Thomas Brooks, director of U.S. Naval Intelligence, also said Iraq probably has biological as well as chemical weapons and that China was eagerly trying to sell short and medium-range missiles in the Middle East.

Baghdad's successful test last December of a satellite-launching rocket "probably indicates the system can deliver warheads, possibly to targets

thousands of miles away," Brooks said.

He gave these assessments in testimony to a subcommittee of the House of Representatives Armed Service Committee earlier this month, before allegations surfaced that Iraq tried to smuggle equipment used to trigger nuclear devices through Britain.

His testimony to the seapower, strategic and critical materials subcommittee on March 14 attracted almost no public attention at the time. And his assessments differ dramatically from the cautious statements of Bush administration spokesmen.

Brooks said: "Several Third World countries, including Iraq and North Korea, have advanced nuclear weapon development programmes... Iran, with an eye towards Iraq's well-advanced programme, is seeking its own nuclear weapons capability."

In contrast, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher offered a more reassuring analysis Thursday, saying:

"We do not foresee a near-term Iraqi nuclear weapons capability. However, we remain concerned about the danger that Iraq may seek to develop a nuclear weapons option in the future."

On China, Brooks gave little credence to Peking's assurances to the Bush administration not to sell medium-range missiles to Middle Eastern countries.

U.N. extends mandate of Gulf observer group

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The Security Council has voted to keep a U.N. military observer force in Iran and Iraq while negotiators press both sides to resume direct talks aimed at reaching a permanent peace agreement.

The 15-member Council voted unanimously to extend the mandate for the 400-member U.N. Gulf military observer group until Sept. 30.

In a report to the Security Council recommending the extension, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar also urged both nations to accept his proposal for

a two-month session of direct talks.

U.N. negotiators have given an agenda for another round of talks to representatives of Iran and Iraq, who have forwarded the proposals to officials in Baghdad and Tehran.

Iran-Iraq peace talks began in Geneva in August 1988, but quickly bogged down. An uneasy truce prevails on the 563-kilometre war front, with the warring armies separated by U.N. military observers.

The measure approved Thursday also called for Iran and Iraq

to implement a Security Council resolution approved in 1987.

Resolution 598 calls for a ceasefire and withdrawal to the border by the warring armies; urges the exchange of prisoners of war; seeks a negotiated settlement of the war and would set up a panel to apportion blame for the conflict.

Iraq is stressing that since active hostilities have ceased, all prisoners of war should be exchanged next, according to the terms of the Geneva conventions of 1949 governing the treatment of PoWs.

About 100,000 prisoners still languish in PoW camps as their governments wrangle over the proper terms for their release.

Tehran insists that the next step in the peace process must be the withdrawal of troops to the border. Iraq still occupies about 1,000 square kilometres of Iranian territory.

In his report released this week, Perez de Cuellar said that during the past six months there was relative calm along the ceasefire lines and a significant decline in the number of major truce violations.

Ethiopia confirms Jewish emigration to Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — Ethiopia has confirmed for the first time that it has allowed hundreds of black Jews to emigrate to Israel and is discussing direct flights to the Jewish state.

Ethiopian presidential adviser Kesse Kebede made the disclosures at a press briefing during a visit to Israel and in an interview with Israel Radio broadcast Friday.

He said Ethiopia had agreed to facilitate "the reunification of these families in Israel and elsewhere... on humanitarian grounds."

Kebede denied U.S. media reports that Israel had supplied Ethiopia with cluster bombs but referred indirectly to military cooperation by saying they "share the geostrategic relationship of keeping the Red Sea a non-Arab sea... to ensure both countries continued passage through its shipping lanes."

Foreign newspapers have alleged that Israel has swapped arms for Jews, supplying the beleaguered Communist government in Addis Ababa with weapons and military advisers to fight Eritrean guerrillas. Israel has denied the reports.

Israeli military censors had previously suppressed news of immigration from Ethiopia for fear it could harm the delicate channels through which the African Jews were reaching Israel.

Journalists and photographers who witnessed the arrival of the white-robed immigrants at Tel Aviv airport were prevented from reporting it.

In 1984-1985, Israel brought some 10,000 Ethiopians in a secret airlift dubbed "Operation Moses." Reports of the emigration were regularly censored and the airlift was aborted when it was publicised.

By 1986, 15,000 Ethiopian

Jews were living in Israel.

Earlier this year a spokesman for the quasi-governmental Jewish Agency, which helps immigrants, said about 100 Ethiopians were reaching Israel each month.

Kebede spoke of hundreds of emigrants but said he would not give exact numbers because it could harm the parties involved.

The black Jews are widely known as Falashas, although they regard the Ethiopian term, which means migrants or wanderers, as offensive.

Israel and Ethiopia renewed diplomatic relations last year and Kebede said his country would soon open an embassy.

"I don't know if the embassy will be in Jerusalem. We are prepared to send an ambassador to Israel soon," he told Israel Radio, speaking fluent Hebrew. He studied at the Hebrew University 25 years ago and learned the language then.

Kebede said that at the request of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Ethiopia had freed dozens of Jews imprisoned for attempting to leave illegally for Israel. Most of those pardoned had already reached, he said.

He told the radio that Ethiopia was interested in closer economic ties with Israel.

"Ethiopia has a lot of land, there is a lot of water, there are economic opportunities we can develop. From that you will benefit and the Ethiopian people will benefit."

News of recent immigrants from Ethiopia has leaked out only in connection with events inside Israel.

In January, the mayor of the northern Israeli town of Maalot protested against plans to use the local immigrant absorption centre for new Ethiopian arrivals. He demanded white Soviet Jews instead.

More trucks needed to extend Ethiopian relief operations

ADDIS ABABA (Agencies) — A group of church relief agencies appealed to the international community Friday for 100 new trucks to extend famine relief in rebel-held areas of northern Ethiopia.

Francis Stefanos, the coordinator of the Joint Relief Partnership (JRP), said the consortium's present truck fleet was good enough to travel only 150 kilometres north from Dessie, the capital of Wollo province, to the rebel-held town Kobo.

"For our food convoys to go further and climb the steep escarpments of Alamata and reach Adigrat in the extreme north of rebel-held Tigray province, we must have brand new and sturdy trucks as a matter of priority," he said.

"We appeal to the international community to send us the trucks required on a priority basis," Francis said, adding that 100 vehicles would be required.

The JRP began a "safe passage" scheme to feed a million victims of drought and civil war in rebel-held areas of northern Wollo and Tigray on March 20. Francis

said 887 tonnes of food had reached Kobo since then.

The JRP truck convoys cross the military lines 35 kilometres north of Dessie with the consent of both Ethiopia's Soviet-backed government and the rebel Tigray Peoples Liberation Front (TPLF).

However they are not protected by any formal ceasefire and a third round of peace talks between the two sides in Rome collapsed Thursday.

The JRP currently runs daily convoys between Dessie and Kobo with a fleet of 40 trucks. Francis said it planned to increase rapidly the number of trucks to 147 so that 14,500 tonnes of food a month could be moved into the rebel-held area.

In addition, the JRP would need at least 100 brand new heavy duty trucks to reach the areas worst hit by last year's severe drought further north, he said.

First reports from a JRP reconnaissance team indicated that several bridges on the main road running north through Tigray had been destroyed, Francis said.

The road itself was in poor condition near Alamata in northern Wollo, where it zig-zags up a steep escarpment, he added.

Francis expected the number of people in northern Wollo and Tigray suffering acute food shortages to increase sharply between April and June.

"The JRP believes that the period beginning in May will be very critical and unless more food is stocked at selected centres... it may not be possible to stop a flood of hungry people leaving their villages in search of food," he said.

The JRP, which groups relief agencies connected to the Roman Catholic, Lutheran and Ethiopian Orthodox churches, eventually hoped to employ nearly 300 trucks on the "safe passage" operation, Francis said.

The aim was to take 130,000 tonnes of food into the region by next December, he said. The problem of how to feed nearly two million hungry people in the Red Sea province of Eritrea remains unresolved.

Since the rebel Eritrean Peoples Liberation Front (EPLF) cap-

tured Massawa, the province's main port, in February the distribution of food aid in government-held areas of the province has stopped.

The government has appealed to donors to finance a massive airlift of food to the besieged provincial capital Asmara.

The EPLF is urging the United Nations to use Massawa as a gateway for a second "safe passage" operation to feed people in both government and rebel-held areas.

The authorities in Addis Ababa have rejected this option.

EC gives \$318.8m grant

The European Community is to grant and lend Ethiopia \$318.8 million to develop agriculture, industry, mining and energy, the official Ethiopian News Agency (ENA) said Friday.

ENA said the money would be handed out in the five years after 1991. It gave no details of repayments.

It said EC delegate Benno Haefliger told President Mengistu Haile Mariam at a meeting Thursday that 90 per cent of the

money would be a grant.

ENA said the EC had granted or loaned Ethiopia \$597.7 million between 1986 and 1990.

U.N. envoy in Ethiopia

Meanwhile a senior U.N. official has arrived here in a new, desperate effort to get food to millions of people faced with starvation in Ethiopia's war-torn north.

Abdul Rahim Farah, the under-secretary-general for special political affairs, arrived Thursday and later met with President Haile Mariam.

It was Farah's second visit to the Horn of Africa nation in a month. Following his first visit, he criticised government relief efforts as inadequate and called for a bigger U.N. role.

Details of Farah's meeting with Mengistu were not disclosed.

The United Nations estimates between 4 and 6 million Ethiopians face starvation this year. It has appealed for 1.1 million tonnes of emergency food for the victims, mainly in Tigre and Eritrea provinces.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
17:30 Educational programme
17:35 News summary
18:05 Message from Iraq
18:25 A play by Shakespeare
19:10 Local programme
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:20 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Consumer's Guide
22:25 Local programme
23:00 News in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Courtroom
19:00 News in French
19:15 Documentary
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Surgical Spirit
21:40 Encounter
21:50 News in Arabic
22:30 Feature film: "The Defiant Ones"

PRAYER TIMES
06:04 Fair
05:22 (Shari'ah) Daba

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrestrial Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625453
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:
Dr. Othman Mustafa 71424
Dr. Zein Zaghloul 638391
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad 846070
Dr. Hany Abu Zaid (-)
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asana pharmacy 637025
Nasrallah pharmacy 625672
Al Salem pharmacy 630730
Yasrab pharmacy 644945
Simchani pharmacy 637660

NIGHT DUTY

Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Traffic Police 843402
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 620800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Ambulance 630390
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Emergency 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630441
Rescue 630441
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Traffic Police 843402
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 620800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Ambulance 630390
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Husseini Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaldun Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Akiba Maternity, J. Amn 642412
Jahed Anwar Maternity 642362
Mallat, J. Amn 626140
Palestine, Shmouni 664171/4
Shmouni Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musharraf Hospital 667227/37
The Islamic, Abadi 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abadi 664164/6
Baklan, Al-Ahli 77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Amn 77511/26
Army, Marja 89161/15
Queen Alia Hospital 6224030
Amal Hospital 674135
ZARQA:
Zarg Gov. Hospital (09)963322
Zarg National Hospital (09)961071
The Sam Hospital (09)966732
BRIDGE:
Private Beama Hospital (02)225535
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)227275
The Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (05)3200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:45 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
09:15 Agaba (RJ)
09:30 New Delhi (RJ)
09:30 Cairo (RJ)
09:35 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
09:45 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)
10:00 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
10:45 Cairo (RJ)
10:45 Frankfurt (RJ)
17:00 New York, Vienna (RJ)
19:00 Tel Aviv (RJ)
01:00 Jeddah (add.) (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

05:55 Baghdad (IA)
10:45 Cairo (MS)
12:25 Riyadh (SU)
12:40 Kuwait (KU)
12:45 Tripoli (LN)
16:35 Rome (AZ)
17:30 Dubai, Damascus (EK)
20:40 Paris, Damascus (AF)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
07:00 Agaba (RJ)
10:30 Helsinki (RJ)
10:40 Tripoli (LN)
10:45 Vienna, Chicago (RJ)
11:00 Geneva, Frankfurt (RJ)
11:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:00 Rome, Madrid (RJ)
12:00 London (RJ)
12:15 Paris (AF)
12:30 Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)
12:45 Cairo (RJ)
19:40 Kuwait (RJ)
19:45 Bahrain, Dubai (RJ)
20:15 Jeddah (RJ)
21:15 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:55 Baghdad (IA)
08:15 Beirut (MS)
10:25 Helsinki, Agaba (RJ)
13:40 Riyadh (SV)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in \$/kg
Apples 480 / 440
Bananas 430 / 400
Bananas (Malaysia) 400 / 350
Beans 1350 / 1000
Cabbage 80 / 40
Carrots 220 / 170
Cauliflower 250 / 200
Cucumbers (large) 250 / 200
Cucumbers (small) 300 / 400
Dates 400 / 400
Eggplant 300 / 250
Garlic 700 / 600
Grapes 250 / 200
Lettuce 350 / 280
Lettuce (per one) 120 / 100
Marrow (large) 400 / 350
Marrow (small) 400 / 350
Onion (dry) 220 / 220
Onion (green) 220 / 180
Orange (Siam) 330 / 280
Orange (Siam) 400 / 350
Pepper (hot) 1200 / 1000
Pepper (sweet) 600 / 500
Potatoes 280 / 220
Raspberries 150 / 100
Sage 400 / 350
Spinach 170 / 120
Tomatoes 370 / 320



A technician demonstrates one of the techniques used at the Jordan Centre for Veterinary Vaccine (JCVC) to participants in a training course. (Right) Some of the most modern equipment are used in preparing vaccines at the centre.



Animal vaccine industry enters new era

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The Jordanian pharmaceutical industry is seen as one of the most successful in the Arab World according to many experts, and a new addition to it is the Jordan Centre for Veterinary Vaccine (JCVC), which has now started exporting vaccines to Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates.

According to the centre's deputy-director, Dr. Emile Msanat, contacts are under way with vaccine importers in Saudi Arabia on possible export deals.

Although the JCVC is new,

and there are many similar centres in the Middle East, Msanat believes "that the qualified staff and modern equipment will allow the JCVC to compete with other centres in the Arab World." He described JCVC exports to Bahrain and the UAE as a major step. He did not provide any figures.

The JCVC, which was established in 1988 with assistance from the West German government agency GTZ, is presently producing 80 million doses of certain types of vaccines for local and export markets.

"We hope to expand, to

produce 170 million doses of which only half will be required in Jordan," Dr. Mukhlis Ammarin told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, in a recent interview.

An important goal of the centre is to reduce the country's dependence on imported vaccines which are very costly. The Ministry of Agriculture and the private sector used to spend JD 300,000 for the import to certain types of vaccines and now the JCVC is offering import substitutes.

"The project is saving the country JD 300,000 in hard currency because they used to import these vaccines from Europe before the centre was

established," Msanat told reporters during a recent press tour of the centre located 12 kilometres north of Amman in a forested, isolated area.

"There are other vaccines which the ministry still imports but we hope to cover these needs in the future," he added.

The centre, which is part of the five-year development plan as well as a technical cooperation programme between Jordan and West Germany, produces sheep-pox, goat-pox, brucella, anthrax and New Castle disease vaccines.

Msanat explained that vaccine production was profitable for the country since the indus-

try had a very high-profit margin — 75 per cent.

In a move to diversify its production, the centre, with the assistance of two German experts, has started experimenting with biologicals. "We want to go into producing biologicals which are now imported. We are awaiting the Ministry of Agriculture's approval," Msanat said. The centre is also waiting for approval from the ministry to put on the market 40 million doses of poultry vaccine.

GTZ provides two types of assistance to the centre; one is financial by supplying equipment and the other is technical. Two qualified German con-

sultants are working at the centre to supervise production and train local staff. GTZ has given scholarship for training staff here and abroad.

"The functions of this centre are to produce vaccines to meet local needs as well as a surplus for export, and to train staff and others on how to use the vaccine properly," Dr. George Weiland, project manager at the centre, told the Jordan Times.

Both Alrnan Aher van Meleck, a senior teaching technician, and Weiland assist in the training seminars that are held for the staff, employees from concerned ministries and those involved in related fields.

Women's contribution to society highlighted

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday attended a celebration held by the Ministry of Social Development to mark International Women's Day.

Addressing the celebration, which was held at the Royal Cultural Centre, Social Development Minister Abdul Majid Shraideh said that Jordanian women had participated actively in the development of the country and played an active role in the political, economic and social fields.

He praised the women's contributions in areas like women federations and voluntary societies.

Shraideh said women's federations seek to advance the status of women and give them equal chances for active participation in

national development.

He said the ministry had provided all the necessary support to enable women to be more closely involved in the development process at various levels.

The ministry has honoured the Palestinian women for their role in countering the occupation authorities, the dedicated working women and the women who excelled in areas like scientific research and higher studies, he said.

He said that this year's celebration was especially in honour of women who had made an effort to become literate.

At the end of the celebration, Queen Noor presented shields to several women who have graduated from literacy education classes.

Meat, vegetables sufficient for Ramadan — Abdul Huda

ZARQA (Petra) — Minister of Supply Nabil Abdul Huda has reaffirmed his ministry's resolve to provide sufficient quantities of fresh imported Bulgarian meat, as Saturday and said it would be sold to consumers at the cost price, which is JD 1.800 per kilo. Abdul Huda, who was speaking at a meeting held at the Zarqa governor's office, said that the ministry would import an additional plane load of beef in a bid to meet the needs of the local markets.

He pointed out to the rise in the prices of vegetables and fruit and said that there was a real shortage of such foodstuffs in the market.

However, he noted, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company have instructed the tomato paste factories in Arida and Ghor Al Safi to stop producing tomato paste in order to meet the local demand for fresh tomatoes.

He also said that the ministry had provided the market with large quantities of onions and potatoes, and that large quantities of apples had been returned to the exporting countries because of their poor quality.

The minister said that world tea prices were on the increase and that a meeting of tea importers would be held at the ministry Saturday to look into the possibility of importing tea and putting it up for sale to consumers at reasonable prices.

Zarqa Governor Mohammad Hussein Shubaki briefed the minister on the problems encountered by Zarqa citizens, including the shortage of chicken, meat and some kinds of vegetables.

The governor reviewed various supply issues with the minister and stressed the need for intensifying control over importers and retailers.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

King prays at Aqaba

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein performed Friday prayers at Al Hussein Ibn Ali Mosque in the port city of Aqaba. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan performed the prayer at King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein Mosque in Amman. Accompanying the Crown Prince were the Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament, His Majesty's special advisor, the chief Islamic justice, the Public Security Department director and several senior officials. On Thursday His Majesty King Hussein received a telephone call from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who congratulated the King on the start of the fasting month of Ramadan and wished him continued good health and happiness and the Jordanian people further progress and prosperity under his leadership.

Book released on social problems

AMMAN (J.T.) — "Ashtro," the second novel by Hani Abu Naim, was published recently by Dar Ghassan Publishing House in Amman. Abu Naim's first novel, published in 1988, was called "Peace Emissaries." The second novel, of 162 pages, is an allegory of social problems where the good ultimately wins over falsehood, and hypocrisy. The writer works as chief financial controller with the Social Security Corporation.

Draft trade law prepared

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Industry and Trade has prepared a draft law for commercial agents and middlemen. The law is based on the most recent laws used in the world in this field. The ministry has asked those interested in and concerned with the issue to present their views of the draft law before it is transferred to the concerned authorities for approval. The law aims to organise the profession of commercial agents and define conditions to practice the profession.

Frigate visits Aqaba

AMMAN (J.T.) — The U.S. Navy ship USS Simpson will pay a port call in Aqaba from March 29 to April 3, 1990. Ships of the U.S. Navy's Middle East Force regularly call at Aqaba as part of their programme visits to friendly states in the region. Past visits to Aqaba have been very much enjoyed by the ship's personnel. While in Aqaba, officers of the ship will pay calls on military and civilian officials and participate in social events with local residents. The ship's crew will participate in sporting events with Jordanian soldiers and visit Petra. The USS Simpson is an Oliver Hazard Perry Class frigate.

ACC discusses energy cooperation

CAIRO (Petra) — Oil and energy ministers in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) member states will hold a meeting in Amman in April, according to the Egyptian Middle East News Agency. The meeting will follow up the implementation of cooperation programmes within the framework of oil and gas agreement signed at the last meeting of the ACC heads of state. The ministers will also discuss the prospects of cooperation and exchange of expertise in fields related to petroleum products and projects.

Panel assesses toxic waste site

AMMAN (Petra) — A committee comprising director of the environment department at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment and representatives of Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Water and Irrigation, in addition to Lower House of Parliament Deputy Jamal Al Khreisha Thursday visited a toxic waste dumping site, east of Swaqa in the central desert area, to assess the effects of the waste on the environment. The committee found that the toxic waste had negative effects on ground water, livestock and arable land in the area, thus warranting another site away from ground water resources, pastures and arable land.

Tourists arrive in Aqaba

AQABA (Petra) — Two ships, carrying 1,430 tourists of various nationalities, Thursday docked at Aqaba port, according to Mazen Kassar, organizer of these trips. Kassar noted that such trips were the fruit of joint cooperation between the Ministry of Tourism and the private sector. He pointed out that the German ship, Europe, one of the two which docked Thursday, had made its first ever voyage to Aqaba and that it will organise a yearly trip to this winter resort.

Al Ra'i did not breach any regulation, Kayed says

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arabic-language Al Ra'i daily did not breach any provisions of the Press and Publications Law related to secret parliamentary sessions when it published the decision by the Lower House of Parliament to refer nine cases of possible corruption to the prosecutor-general and to seek further details on others, according to Al Ra'i Editor-in-Chief Mahmoud Al Kayed.

In a reply to House Speaker Saleiman Arar, who accused him of "pouring a torrent of angry words marked with mockery" in reaction to the House's moves to locate what it considered as "leaked information" on its secret session on corruption and financial mismanagement held on March 20, Kayed pointed out that while the session lasted over 10 hours, the newspaper had only carried the outcome of the deliberations and not the deliberations themselves. "It would have taken tens of pages to publish the deliberations," Kayed said in his letter.

"The Al Ra'i report could have been read in minutes," he added. "What Al Ra'i published was the headlines of the cases that the House decided to refer to the prosecutor-general," he said. "And actually they were referred, and the cases were on the desk of the prosecutor-general when Al Ra'i carried the story; does it mean that they were secret?" he asked.

Referring to the House speaker's charge that Parliament was facing a "new kind of democracy" by allowing the press to publish all that is banned by law, Kayed said: "Who was asking for such a democracy? We, in the press, never heard of such a call, and none of us who wrote on the topic have mentioned such a thing."

"Is it self-evident that democracy does not allow the press, or the press allows itself, in any country to violate laws or to circumvent the constitution," said Kayed, who has served two terms as president of the Jordan Press Association (JPA).

Kayed referred to his appearance before the House committee charged with locating the "leak" on its secret session, and said that he cared for "the principles and ethics of address and conversation."

"My conversation with the committee members was characterised by respect and affection," he said. "I do not remember any word that was exchanged between me and the committee that could have gone beyond the norms of friendship and brotherhood."

"It was up to the deputies to interpret my refusal to disclose the source of information as unjustified rejection and refusal to cooperate," he said.

"I have stressed and affirmed under oath that Al Ra'i's source of information was not a deputy, senator or a minister or a reporter," he said.

ter," he said. "Furthermore, I also requested the deputies to tone down the issue since it does not deserve all this fuss," he added. "There was no 'leakage'; it was only a matter of Al Ra'i collecting some information."

"Today (Thursday, March 29), after several days have passed since this happened, I am ready to meet the committee members to find out what happened during that session because I am keen on countering what the speaker and some members of the House had been told," he said.

Rejecting Speaker Arar's assertion that the press was at liberty to praise or defame anyone it wanted to, Kayed asked: "Where did such ideas come from? God is only one who can slander."

"Our press, of which Al Ra'i is a member, does not slander and does not pretend to be a preacher," Kayed said.

"Our press is dedicated to our homeland and people and all of its sectors, classes and institutions... and forgives our dear friend," Kayed said.

He concluded by refuting another assertion by Speaker Arar that the press was no longer the so-called "fourth estate" since television and radio were assuming a major share in conveying information. In fact, he said, television and radio have promoted the role of the press, which "is something which could be read, heard or seen."

Deputy details steps towards democracy

KARAK (Petra) — The Jordanian people have achieved several goals on the path of democracy, Deputy Mohammad Fares Tarawneh, said Thursday.

Delivering a lecture about Jordan's democratic experience at the Professional Association's Complex, Tarawneh pointed out that such achievements have been reflected in the restoration of public and political freedoms, the release of the confiscated passports and the freeing of martial law, in preparation for its cancellation.

"However, Jordan's democracy is not an absolute democracy, but a democracy based on the constitution's provisions, which take into consideration the political, economic and social dimensions," he said.

Tarawneh called for changing the patterns of consumption behaviour and for converting them into elements capable of contributing to building the new Jordan.

"A shift from negative to positive attitudes is a prerequisite for serving public interest, and it will surely contribute to sustaining the democratic progress and safeguarding the gains and achievements already made," he said.

Officials pledge to donate corneas to the Eye Bank

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Saleiman Arar Thursday received a delegation representing the Jordanian Friends of Eye Bank Society, who briefed him on the society's objectives and activities.

The delegation said that a total of 580 cornea transplant had so far been performed in Jordan.

Arar said he would donate his corneas to the Eye Bank, thus following in the footsteps of His Majesty King Hussein who announced earlier this year that he would donate his corneas to

the bank. Arar also promised to send a circular to House members urging them to donate their corneas.

Several deputies, including Youssef Al Adhem, Fuad Al Khleifat, Jamal Al Khreisha, Nayef Abu Tayeh and Abdullah Al Zureiqat have already voiced their willingness to donate their corneas to the bank.

Also donating their corneas are Nayef Al Mubcisen from the Petra News Agency, and Rima Al Dabbas and Randa Taji from the Parliament's General Secretariat.

Jordan to participate in IPU conference

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian parliamentary delegation led by Lower House of Parliament Speaker Saleiman Arar will leave for Nicosia Saturday to take part in an International Parliamentary Union (IPU) conference.

Arar will deliver a speech at the conference which starts Monday, outlining the latest developments in the Arab and interna-

tional arenas, the Palestinian uprising and the immigration of the Soviet Jews.

Jordan has requested the issue of the Soviet Jewish immigration be added to the agenda of the conference as an additional, urgent issue.

The six-day conference is scheduled to discuss a number of political and economic issues.

Badran

(Continued from page 1)

Palestinian people, who are suffering from sieges and starvation, have the right to a decent life on their own land and be governed by themselves. That is why we in Jordan have called and will continue to call for the necessity to stand firm against Jewish immigration (to Palestine) and the way it is carried out under the insistence of Israel to settle immigrants in the occupied lands...

"The major support for the intifada is our national unity which we should maintain and safeguard since Palestinian national unity is the guarantee of victory and the national unity on the Arab-Jordanian arena is the guarantee to Palestinian national unity and our common steadfastness. I do not hesitate to emphasise that any attempt to infringe upon this unity or our national security will not come from no-one but who has aligned with the enemy. Anybody who aligns himself with the enemy is not a member of our nation and is an accomplice with our enemies against our steadfastness."

The prime minister concluded by reaffirming to the Palestinian people in the occupied territories that "we stand by you in your steadfastness and suffering and in your courageous intifada since we share a common destiny, future and aspirations."

Jordan Times
Tel. 667171

Iraq refutes nuclear charge

(Continued from page 1)

British companies accused of illegally exporting electronic devices to trigger nuclear warheads were acting as agents of Iraq.

The indictment, returned last month by a federal grand jury in San Diego, charges that Euromac (London) Ltd., and Atlas Equipment (U.K.) Ltd. acted on behalf of the Iraqi government to illegally obtain the devices, which were made by a U.S. defence contractor.

Two of those arrested in London Wednesday were among five individuals named in the five-count indictment, released by the Justice Department after it was unsealed in San Diego.

Ali Daghir, identified by British authorities as the leader of the alleged smuggling operation, and Jeanine Speckman, a French woman released on bond Thursday by a British magistrate, were charged in the indictment.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of plastic artists Arij Al Hamed and Ibrahim Al Nabahneh at the Housing Bank Complex.
- ★ Art exhibition by seven Iraqi artists at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation (10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
- ★ Art exhibition entitled "Spanish contemporary engravings" at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Ahmad Nawash at the French Cultural Centre.

THEATRE

- ★ Arabic children's play entitled "Al Shaked" (the witness) at the Royal Cultural Centre — 4:00 p.m.

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View from Amman

'Marxism: End of ideology?' — Part III

By Kamel S. Abu Jaber

FUTURE historians will, no doubt, marvel at the dismantling of the communist empire that took place in the twentieth century. One American intellectual of Arab origin recently called it an ethical as well as a moral collapse of an entire system of values that failed to prove itself in practice. The judgment is not only too harsh and unjust but inaccurate as well. For what collapsed was not the humanist ideals of Marxism but the inhuman practice of the communist state that turned itself into a repressive and dictatorial system.

Whatever way one may interpret the events currently taking place in the communist world, they remain of vast historical significance. Several reasons account for this: chief among them is that while the communist regime replaced the empire of the tsars, Russian/Soviet policy within and without did not significantly

change. Not until the advent of Mikhail Gorbachev did the state begin to look at its people as citizens rather than subjects, thinking or potentially thinking human beings rather than objects to be manipulated from above. The changes that Gorbachev initiated in the realm of foreign policy are numerous though one feature stands out as most significant: namely, the abandonment of the tsarist dream of further expansion. A dream that the Communist state later justified in the name of Communism.

It took courage not ethical or moral collapse to admit mistakes. That is the second reason why the events in the "East" are so significant historically. Never before in the history of man did an empire admit it was mistaken in its approach to life. Never before did an empire act upon that realization and, willingly and

from within, begin to divest itself of the mistakes of the past and peacefully allow itself to be dismantled.

Where will the process lead, no one knows. That is another feature rendering the whole process unique. Why didn't Mr. Gorbachev prepare a plan for himself? Why does there seem to be no blue print for what is taking place? Not only for what was once called the Soviet empire, but for the very Soviet Union itself? Why does the revolution from above seem to be overtaken from below? Why did not the "new thinking" provide for alternatives? A looser federation? A confederation? Complete independence for the satellites as well as the republics within the union?

That something needed to be done was already obvious at least three decades ago when Nikita Khrushchev attacked Stalin and later introduced the

concept of "peaceful coexistence" with the capitalist world. In retrospect it is fair to say that what Mr. Gorbachev is doing is no more than an elaboration of Khrushchev's reforms. For, peaceful coexistence then and now is a coin that has two faces: internally that Communist ideology is no more than any other ideology found in that particular society and therefore has to compete peacefully to gain support. That Communism has no longer a monopoly on the truth as was previously emphasised and, essentially like all other great systems of thought may even splinter into different interpretations of the same truth. Externally, peaceful coexistence means that the hated capitalist world or any other system of thought has the right to exist, and that henceforth violent struggle can, indeed, must be avoided.

Mr. Gorbachev took office

in March 1985, almost seventy years after the 1917 October revolution. Like his predecessor, Peter the Great, three hundred years earlier, he too journeyed to the west and was impressed with its material accomplishments. Peter was impressed with the European industrial revolution then taking place and Michael with the explosion of knowledge, the advanced technologies, the informatics and the high standard of living. In the wake of each visit, great changes occurred and great debate ensued. Today's debate within the Soviet Union between the Slavophiles and the Westerners is but an echo of the earlier debate that culminated in nineteenth century tsarist Russia. The debate is healthy indicating a certain resilience and a will to live in accordance with changing circumstances. The Slavophiles of today, like those of yesterday think that

all is well within and that there is no need to borrow or learn from abroad. Like most ultra-conservatives anywhere in the world, they exist in a half real world: between fear and freedom. They want the change but they do not want to change. The Westerners argue that things cannot change unless man himself, from within, changes first. In his speech addressing the twenty-seventh conference of the Communist Party in 1986, Mr. Gorbachev remarked, "any attempt to convert the theory to a collection of rigid blue prints and prescriptions that are good for all the circumstances of life and everywhere, contradicts the spirit and essence... Marx and Engels scoffed at the simplistic memorisation and repetition of formulas which of necessity changed by the objective political and economic situation of the changing times...."

Land Day — a resounding pledge

THE SYMBOLISM of Land Day commemorated Friday by Palestinians everywhere surpasses its original and immediate objective of protesting Israeli expropriation of Arab lands within the Jewish state.

As this national protest has spread in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and become the centerpiece for the crystallisation of a Palestinian sense of nationalism and yearning for statehood, the significance of the day has also become, since its initial stage, the epitome of Palestinian cohesion and consolidation of efforts.

Moreover, the unity shown in celebrating this occasion has become a major landmark and a significant milestone on the way to statehood.

No wonder, therefore, that the Palestinians have remembered Land Day, this time too, with renewed determination and vigour maintaining its rightful course.

The extensive participation in Friday's commemoration of Land Day has evidently bolstered the determination of the Palestinian people everywhere to continue to wage their struggle for liberty and self-determination despite all the formidable obstacles put in their path.

The nervousness with which the Israeli authorities have anticipated this Palestinian occasion demonstrates how seriously Israel views Land Day.

For a long time the Israeli establishment had viewed the Palestinians as people with a superficial attachment to their lands; they thought of them as wandering bedouins who will easily forsake their territories.

If nothing else, Land Day has come to demonstrate beyond a shadow of doubt that the Palestinians' roots in their homeland are so deep and profound that decades of occupation and oppression have not succeeded in shaking their commitment to their land and country.

As Israel is busy today forming another government on the ashes of the collapsed coalition government, and the Israeli people are deeply divided on how to deal with the Palestinians, the celebration of Land Day must have come as an additional grim reminder to those Israelis who still entertain the false hope of dislodging the Palestinians from their ancestral land, that the Palestinians are there to stay and that there is no way that Israel might succeed in expropriating their land. The Arab people as well as all freedom-loving peoples of the world therefore salute the Palestinians on this occasion for their unswerving will to cling to their lands and homeland come what may.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

ALL JORDANIAN Arabic dailies Friday discuss Land Day, an annual anniversary in which the Arab people of Jordan and other parts of the Arab World show solidarity with the Palestinian people who are fighting for their land and their freedom. The Zionist conspiracy is directed not only against the Palestinians but also against Jordan in the first place and against the Arab Nation in general, and for this reason we feel that all of us are committed to support the Palestinian struggle for freedom. Al Ra'i Arabic paper said Friday. The stronger the Jordanian-Palestinian unity is, the stronger will be the resistance to the enemy's conspiracies against us, the paper added. It said that Jordanians and Palestinians should realise that they together face a great conspiracy and pressure designed to weaken their unity and their steadfastness and eventually weaken the intifada. The stronger the Jordanian-Palestinian unity the more powerful the uprising will be and the stronger will be the resistance of the oppressed Palestinian people, the paper noted. It said that solidarity on Land Day means enhancing the identity of the Palestinian people and their resistance to oppression and joint struggle for freedom. Land Day, the paper added, is the day of Jordan and Palestine together and it is of a more significant meaning for the two peoples this year especially in the light of the Jewish immigration into Palestine.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily launches a strong attack on the Soviet Union and the United States for colluding against the Arab Nation and jointly lying to the world in general and the Arab Nation in particular about their secret agreement concerning the Jewish immigration. Tareq Masarweh says that as the Arabs follow U.N. Security Council discussions about this immigration, they feel surprised about the U.S.-Soviet lies. Both Washington and Moscow realise that the immigration is causing harm to the rights of the Palestinians and both are in agreement that all of the occupied Arab territories should be called "land of Israel". The writer says that the two superpowers realise that Israel does not want to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories and yet neither one dares to denounce such Zionist plans. Washington and Moscow both realise that the Israelis are absorbing the new immigrants in the occupied Arab territories, and yet both choose to lie. Washington and Moscow agreed at their Helsinki summit to allow the Jews to emigrate, with Moscow succumbing to American pressure, and at the same time failing to defend the Palestinian people's rights, the writer says. What about the Palestinian people's rights in their homeland and what about repatriation? he asks. If the Jews have the right to return to what is called Israel land, shouldn't the Palestinians have the same right and return to the land from which they have been turned out? asks Masarweh. He says that the Arabs regret Moscow's stand and do not consider the Soviet Union as an ally or a friend; and they are just awaiting Moscow to declare that openly.

Sawt Al Shaab daily attacked the Zionist lobby in the United States which, it says, is trying to stifle all new American administration's policies with regard to the Middle East. The paper said that world Zionism seems to have realised that the Bush administration was following a course of action different from those followed by previous administrations and for this reason it is now exercising pressure on Washington.

South Yemen waits for unity

By Llesl Graz

THE WALLS, of Aden are plastered with portraits of the four "chief martyrs" killed, along with 10,000 other people, in ten murderous days of civil war in 1986. The present South Yemeni leaders, Ali Salim Al Baydh and Haidar Abu Bakr Al Attas, never had that honour; four dead heroes were better than the risk of a personality cult in those highly unstable years. Another mustachioed face is appearing, that of North Yemen's president, Colonel Ali Abdullah Saleh, former enemy and now probably the most popular man in what is still the Popular Democratic Republic of Yemen. For 20 years, almost every time that Yemenis talked about unity, the result was bloodshed; scepticism was understandable after the latest spate of declarations in November 1989. Three months later, even the sceptics are coming to think that this time the Yemenis might bring it off.

No one on either side has ever dared contest the basic idea. The ideal of "Yemen" as such has endured through centuries of fragmentation; the last really unified state was ruled over by Queen Arwa almost a millennium ago. Ever since the independence of the South in 1967, both sides talked about unity — on the condition that it could force the other into its own image. Marxism never sat easy on South Yemen, the only Arab state that formally declared itself to be Marxist-Leninist, but in the North the transition from medieval imamate to 20th-century republic was hardly less violent.

Today, the South badly needs unification, for both economic and ideological reasons. It is ready to accept what is practically absorption with very few caveats. Last autumn, before the border with the North was opened, the economy had effectively broken down; farmers refused to deliver food for the miserable prices they could get, for weeks the only food available in Aden market was potatoes, bread and onions. The government's coffers were empty.

Soviets pull out

Economic misery apart, the changes in Eastern Europe have orphaned South Yemen, robbed it of its ideological bearings, taken away any reason it had for remaining different. Czech and East German advisers are leaving in droves. The Soviets, who have been disengaging themselves since the 1986 upheaval, now have fewer military advisers in the South than in the North. The able foreign minister, Mr. Abdul Aziz Al Dahi, insists there are no Soviet bases in South Yemen, not even on the island of Socatra, and that whatever fuelling or landing facilities may exist are available to all comers. HMS Minerva called into Aden in February, the first British warship (minesweepers returning from the Gulf excepted) to approach Steamer Point since the independence in 1967. "Imperialist Britain" leap to "friendly country" overnight last year, when the British disaster unit was first on the spot with relief for the flooded Hadramaut. Even the aggressive tone towards America has been dampened slightly, although official Aden finds it difficult to understand why the United States will refuse diplomatic contact. The old line of South Yemen as a "terrorist"

state, or one aiding and abetting terrorists, has been outdated for years, but old reputations — especially bad ones — die hard. Even Ahmed Jibril, leader of the PFLP-GC, long considered a friend, is no longer welcome in Aden.

The Russians' big remaining project is the painfully slow construction of a pipeline from the Shabwa oilfields, just come on-stream, to the sea at Bir Ali. The Yemenis have not failed to tell their former protectors that they are not satisfied with progress of the work. The South has estimated reserves of oil at least three times larger than those of the North. The oil fields are on the border with the North and may, indeed, be all one structure. That may provide another good reason for prompt unification. The oil has not yet had much impact. South Yemen, with an estimated per capita GDP of \$440, is a desperately poor country and the IMF demand for devaluation of the overvalued dinar (officially 1 YD = \$3) could probably be made palatable by pre-unity euphoria. While waiting for the oil, South Yemen's main export is honey, particularly prized in Saudi Arabia for its supposed aphrodisiac properties.

Once economic shackles are loosed, indications are that rich emigre Yemenis in Saudi Arabia, the Gulf and South-East Asia could be induced either to return themselves or to invest in their homeland. The revamping of Aden port is being studied with the help of the United Nations. There is serious talk of making it a free port that could become a serious competitor to Dubai as a redistribution centre to Africa, Europe and the Arabian Peninsula, cutting hundreds or thousands of sea and air miles off the established routes.

Aden's future

If Aden becomes a free port, with perhaps all of the Aden governorate enjoying a special status, most of the remaining qualms of unity being out and out absorption will ease. The North has over 9 million inhabitants, the South just over 2 million and another 2 million Yemenis live abroad. Although Southerners look at the North as an economic paradise, they consider it socially and administratively backward. The projected constitution will find ministerial seats for most leading politicians on both sides, but gives 80 per cent of the seats in the parliament to northern constituencies, where traditional tribal thinking is much stronger than it has been in Aden for even longer than the 22 years of Communist rule. That causes little concern in the conservative Hadramaut, 500 kilometres to the east, the other centre of population, but Adenis are different.

A local joke that it may come to a trade-off between closing the flourishing Sirri brewery and liberalising the qat trade is not considered very funny in Aden. Adeni women are worried; Marxism has at least given them what is probably the most equitable status of any in the Arab World. They are not entirely reassured by soothing noises from Sana'a saying that laws in the North dealing with inheritance, the right of women to testify, to work in a variety of professions or to ask for divorce are almost as favourable to them. That is true on paper, but those laws are applied far more sketchily in the North, where both traditional Islamic

sentiment and new Islamic militancy are in the ascendant. Southerners claim, rightly, that they have more sense of discipline and are better at respecting rules and regulations; they like things to be orderly. Predating and notwithstanding two decades of Communist bureaucracy, justice is seen to be more fairly dispensed, with a minimum of corruption, judges and lawyers are better trained. All those are things that the Adenis don't like the idea of losing.

Civil liberties

Perestroika oblige, Aden is rapidly outstripping Sana'a in granting civil liberties; political parties are being organised and political prisoners have been freed. The mukhabarat or secret police, once a Stasi clone supervised by East Germans, is scheduled to be disbanded by the end of March; nothing similar has been mentioned in Sana'a, where the mentors are mostly Iraqi. The most important question remains largely unspoken: will Saudi Arabia, the largest regional power, let it happen? The Saudis issued a bland official statement saying they welcome any arrangements leading to peace and King Fahd told Ali Abdullah Saleh in February that he backs unity plans "totally and unconditionally." Still, in Aden as in Sana'a, a nagging doubt remains whether the Saudis would be really happy with a unified state of over 11

million Yemenis, traditionally scrappy fighters, with an elected parliament that has considerable say over the running of the country, and pumping enough oil to give it some financial independence. The Saudis particularly do not like the idea of a united Yemen on its south-western flank allied, within the Arab Cooperation Council, to Iraq on the north-east. The traditional Saudi practice of subsidising tribal leaders in the Yemeni far north had reportedly been extended to offering Saudi citizenship with all its perks to South Yemenis who might be tempted to think twice about unification.

To forestall trouble, it now looks as though the unification process will be speeded up even though details may not all be worked out beforehand. ON March 3, immediate mergers of the postal systems, radio and television services, the airlines and the central banks, were announced. For the North, the proclamation will be a vindication of decades of rhetoric; Colonel Ali Abdullah Saleh, who has already broken all records for longevity in the presidential office, sees it as his chance to go down in history as the worthy successor to the Queen of Sheba. For the South, unification presents an honourable — and life-preserving — way out of a hopeless political and economic dilemma — Middle East International, London.

Bush seeks flexibility in allocating U.S. aid

By William Scally
Reuters

WASHINGTON — With new democracies steadily emerging in Eastern Europe and Latin America, U.S. President George Bush has a problem — how to help a growing list of worthy claimants at a time of extreme budget pressure.

His administration believes Congress should give it more flexibility in managing foreign aid by abandoning the practice of setting specific amounts of aid for certain countries.

In frequent trips to Congress, Secretary of State James Baker and other officials have argued the need to cut aid to all current recipients to release funds for the new democracies.

"We cannot conduct the foreign policy of the United States in a manner we consider in the national interest unless you have flexibility in administering foreign assistance," Baker said. He complained that in the current year, 82 per cent of economic aid and 92 per cent of financing for foreign military sales were earmarked for specific countries or regions.

A recent proposal by Senate minority leader Robert Dole to cut five per cent of Israel's \$3-billion annual aid package and transfer the funds to emerging democracies was rejected by Congressmen who rushed to Israel's defence.

But the proposal, which also called for a cut in aid to the four other largest recipients of U.S. aid — Egypt, the Philippines, Turkey and Pakistan — under-

scored Bush's dilemma. Since Dole's January proposal to cut funds to the "big five," which gobble up two-thirds of the U.S. foreign aid budget, more countries have joined the ranks of prospective recipients.

In Nicaraguan elections on February 25, a U.S.-backed coalition defeated the Sandinistas and Nicaragua joined Panama, invaded by U.S. troops last December to oust military strongman Manuel Noriega, as a legitimate aid claimant.

On March 10, General Prosper Avril was ousted from power in Haiti, and replaced by a provisional government led by Ertha Pascal, who promised general elections.

The Bush administration is proposing \$800 million for Nicaragua and Panama this year following approval of an earlier \$500-million aid and trade package for Panama. Authorisation of more than \$20 million in new aid to Haiti is pending before a House of Representatives committee.

Meanwhile, Democrats in Congress are calling for increased aid to Eastern Europe and there is widespread sentiment that it is in U.S. interests to help the new democracies there.

For senator Robert Byrd, powerful chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, the dramatic developments in Eastern Europe require Congress to review its foreign aid priorities.

"Our foreign aid budget has taken on a new and suddenly enhanced importance as an instrument of our goals and policies in the world," he told his colleagues.

Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



'Beast of Exmoor' stalks by night

By Patricia Reaney
Renter

SOUTH MOLTON, England — As soon as Mike Williams saw the mutilated, bloodless carcass of one of his sheep he knew it had been killed by something extraordinary.

The throat had been torn apart, the left ear was missing and it looked like it had been thrown around like a rag doll. Most of the blood had been sucked from the body.

"The face and neck were stripped off," said Williams. "I showed it to my father and neither of us had seen anything like that way. You've got to see it to believe it."

The killing was so quick the animal didn't struggle and so quiet nearby sheep were undisturbed.

This was just one of hundreds of sheep killed in exactly the same way since 1983 on the edge of Exmoor, a rugged, desolate area 320 kilometre west of London which is dotted with isolated villages and solitary farms.

The first rash of killings prompted a near panic. Hunters, superstitious and even the British marines combed the 670-square-kilometre moor in search of what has become known as "The beast of Exmoor."

"Nobody knew what were up against," said Nigel Brierty, a retired local resident who recently wrote a book "They Stalk by Night" about the beast.

"One chap had a butterfly net and another chap who was good at catching strays came up from Plymouth... he trailed a large piece of meat around the moor," Brierty added.

But their efforts were useless and the killings have continued, about 50 a year by Brierty's estimate.

First suspicions, taking their cue from Arthur Conan Doyle's "The Hound of the Baskervilles," focused on an oversized dog. But padmarks near the bodies, the beast's ability to leap from extreme heights and its screeching cry led Brierty and others to suspect it was a puma or mountain lion.

"I heard it twice," said Williams, who has been farming in the area since the late 1950s. "It sounds like a woman screaming. It makes your hair stand up."

The high-pitched cry has become a familiar sound to many local residents, and several say they have seen the elusive beast.

Rod Brammer claims to have spotted the creature near his house early one morning. In one bounding leap it jumped from a wood on to the road and then to the opposite side.

"It was half and again as big as an albatross, long and low, and what struck me was the thickness of the bone in its leg. It was hefty and had a dusky fawn colour," said Brammer who runs a local shooting school.

"I've lived in the country all my life. I'm not a pseudo country person and I know what animals look like. This was, as far as I'm concerned, a mountain lion or puma."

Brierty also claims to have seen the creature and much of his book is devoted to theory that the "Beast of Exmoor" is one or several pumas.

"I have every reason to believe they are pumas," he said.

Although they are not indigenous to Britain, Brierty believes pumas, whose natural habitat stretches from northwestern Canada to South America, could have been released from private menageries several years ago and have been breeding in the British countryside ever since.

But Doug Richardson, head keeper and cat specialist at the London zoo, is sceptical. "It's possible but I've yet to see any hard evidence that it is a puma," he said.

He dismissed the numerous sightings saying most people, unless their eyes are trained, cannot identify well-known, big-cat species.

"They can never get it right," he said, adding that he has seen people in a zoo misidentifying big cats that were labelled. Pumas do have a high-pitched cry "but so do domestic cats, and foxes also make bizarre noises," he added.

But for Richardson the lack of blood was the most convincing argument against the puma theory because sucking blood is not one of its behavioural traits.

He said the padmarks, some of which show claws, are also inconsistent with pumas because big cats retract their claws.

Brierty remains firm in his belief but even he admits: "Until one is actually caught we won't be able to be sure."

Kidnapping — a lucrative sideline for the mafia

By Clare Pedrick

PAVIA, Italy — "My mother says I should forgive them, but I can't. I hate them all — they're not even human. They treated me like a dog and I hope with all my heart that one day they suffer for what they did to me."

Cesare Casella, 20, is on the verge of tears as he relives his two-year ordeal of being chained up in a cave by a gang of professional kidnapers in southern Italy. "I'm sorry. I feel very emotional and rather shy," he adds. "For the past two years I've seen no one but hooded figures. I have to get used to living again, to people and to my family."

Doctors who examined Cesare after his dramatic release a few weeks ago say he seems to be in good physical shape, apart from a welt on his ankle caused by the chain that kept him manacled in his underground prison in the desolate Aspromonte mountains of Calabria.

"Of course, the main damage will be psychological," said Cesare's father, Luigi. "But we don't plan to call in professional help if we can avoid it. We're hoping the best cure will prove to be peace and calm and a normal family life."

For the moment, at least, there is little chance of the Casella household returning to a normal family life. In their house in Pavia, 48 kilometres south of Milan, the telephone rings constantly, the house is overflowing with baskets of flowers sent by well-wishers and the postman arrives several times a day with bundles of letters and telegrams from all over Italy. Outside, staff from Luigi Casella's Citroen car dealership have hurriedly torn down the huge banner urging "Free Casella" that they put up two years ago. Now a new message blazons, "Welcome Home Cesare!"

It was just after 8 p.m. on Jan. 18, 1988, when Luigi Casella found his son's car abandoned outside the family home. The doors were open, the headlights still on, and it was soon clear that Cesare had been abducted. It was to be 744 agonising days before the family would be united. Cesare's release, unharmed, from the clutches of a gang that has in the past sent severed ears and fingers as macabre warnings to relatives was as sudden and as unexpected as his disappearance.

Since his return, Cesare's time has been spent catching up with old friends, going out to discos, watching his favourite soccer team — Milan, as guest of honour — and eating. During his captivity he lived on cheese and plates of beans and pasta. His first request once back home was for a plate of his grandmother's "spaghetti alla carbonara."

Cesare himself confesses to feeling restless. Used to being awakened at dawn every morning, he finds it hard to sleep more than a few hours each night. "His own bed now seems too soft. He can't sit still. He wants to be outside all the time after so long cooped up underground," said his mother, Angela. "He has this desperate urge to live all the things he has missed out on since the age of 18." He has also had to readjust to going back to school and to meeting new classmates.

All of his contemporaries have graduated and gone on to university. One of Cesare's first appointments was a long talk with the father of Carlo Celadon, a 21-year-old boy who was kidnapped from his home in the northern town of Vicenza exactly one week after Cesare and who is one of five victims still being held by the Calabrian bandits. The others are two youths in their late teens, a 60-year-old man, a 50-year-old woman and Patrizia Tacchella, age 8, whose father owns a jeans manufacturing company in Verona. Patrizia was abducted 100 yards from her home on the day before Cesare Casella was released.

The police believe that all the hostages are being held in the same rugged and sparsely populated area of Aspromonte, in the toe of Italy, where gangs linked to the local 'Ndrangheta Mafia hide their victims in caves. Calabria, one of the poorest regions of Italy, has a reputation as an outpost for outlaws and bandits that stretches well back into the last century, but in the past decade kidnapping has become a multimillion dollar business, the proceeds often recycled into drug-running and other illegal activities. Victims usually come from the rich northern towns of Italy and their lifestyle is studied carefully before the strike is made. They are often sold by one gang to another, as Cesare himself almost certainly was. At least 30 victims have never been heard from again.

Captive freed after 6 months

METAPONTO, Italy (AP) — A 24-year-old Italian car salesman kidnapped last October was freed Thursday night on a state road near this hamlet in the southern region of Basilicata, police said. Cataldo Albanese was picked up by his parents, after he called them from a phone booth at gas station, and taken by them to the Metaponto police station.

He had a long beard, long hair, and wore the same clothes he had on when he was abducted 163 days ago in his nearby home-town of Massandra, but was in good health, police said.

Cesare's parents paid a ransom of 100 million lire (\$83,000) to their son's kidnapers. Carlo Celadon's father, a wealthy industrialist, has handed over five billion lire (\$4.2 million), the highest ransom ever paid in Italy, but has not heard from the kidnapers for months. Said Cesare: "My Captors used to beat me up from time to time and they kept me chained up by the ankle and the neck, first in a cave two metres square, then in a slightly larger one. But the hardest part was the psychological torture. They tried to destroy my morale by telling me that my father was a bastard and that instead of paying the ransom he had only brought a suitcase full of wastepaper. If I'm alive today it's because I refused to let them get me down, I told Celadon's father that if his son has a strong will and has faith in his family then I'm sure he will make it."

Cesare's moment of real fear came shortly before his release, when his kidnapers gave him a change of clothing and led him out of the cave. "I knew something was up," he said. "You could tell they were very nervous. I thought they were going to kill me."

AS it turned out, Cesare's captors marched him down from the centre of the kidnapping operation and notorious for its strict allegiance to the "omertà" code of silence and its deep hostility to the rich, northern part of Italy. Refusing to be intimidated, Cesare's mother pitched a tent and spent the night in San Luca to draw attention to her son's plight. In another village she left a message, carved in wood, in the main piazza: "I beg you. Give me back my Cesare." In nearby Platì, she chained herself by the neck to a pole on which she had nailed a poster with the message, "My son has been chained up like this for 510 days."

Angela Casella's mission earned her a reprimand from authorities involved in the case, but the Italian people took her to their hearts and nicknamed her "Mother of Courage." Public anger over police failure to find Cesare led to parliamentary discussion and the decision to order the army into the search.

"At the time it was something I felt I had to do. I had to do something to try to get Cesare back," said Signora Casella, recalling her pilgrimage. "How can I begin to explain the nightmare of a mother whose child had been kidnapped, who every day wonders whether he is dead or alive? It took away all meaning to life."



In southern Italy, kidnapping has become big business. Victims are seized throughout the country and hidden sometimes for years in mountain caves (WNL).

mountains and left him chained to a metal stake near a riverbed. He soon freed himself and, walking to the nearest village, knocked on the door of surprised pensioner Salvatore Giugno, who gave him a bowl of hot milk and called the police.

Many people believe that 'Ndrangheta leaders ordered Cesare's release because their operations were being curtailed by the hordes of police and soldiers searching the Calabria region for the boy.

Whatever the truth, at least part of the credit should go to his mother, who last year made the 1,200-kilometre trip south to plead for her son's life and galvanise public opinion. Angela Casella's pilgrimage took her to three villages in the Aspromonte region, held to be the nerve

We used to feel guilty for not having the money they demanded of us."

Although comfortably off, the Casellas are not fabulously wealthy, and finding the ransom meant mortgaging the car dealership business that Luigi Casella had built up. Then, 10 days after the drop-off in August 1988 came the bombshell. In a move typical of extortionists, the kidnapers made it known that this would be only the first of three equal payments. The Casellas did not have the money. During the months that followed relations between husband and wife and their other son, 19-year-old Carlo, became strained. "I used to go to bed and cry there because I knew my husband and younger son couldn't take much more of seeing how distraught I was," said Angela.

Then, just after the family's first Christmas without Cesare, there was another blow. Luigi Casella managed to scrape together some more money and offered it to the kidnapers through a coded message in the small advertising section of a newspaper. Soon after a delivery date had been agreed on, however, the magistrate handling the case decided to enforce a rarely used law that forbids families from paying ransoms. As a result the ransom money was confiscated by police.

The Casellas became deeply disillusioned and frustrated with officials dealing with the case, but relations improved after police informed them late one night this winter that Cesare had been set free. "He had to repeat it 10 times before I really took it in," said Angela Casella. "We had suffered so many disappointments over the past two years."

Cesare's first words to his mother on the telephone were, "Hello, is that the Mother of Courage?" "The kidnapers sometimes brought me old newspapers and I read about my mother's trip to Calabria," he explained. "It was she who gave me the strength to carry on."

Much later, Cesare recounted one of the worst moments of his long captivity. "Once I saw a shepherd through the crack in the door that they'd put at the entrance to the cave," he said. "I called out, 'I'm Cesare Casella, the boy who's been kidnapped.' He just pulled his cap down over his ears and walked away. I remember thinking, 'Here we're still in Italy, not the Amazon jungle,' but I was wrong. Down there the law counts for nothing."

— World News Link

A good job of classifying, studying archaeology finds

By Nicola Ziaadeh

THE SPADE and shovel have been very active in Jordan in recent years, and treasures of the past are being unearthed practically every month. One thing has pleased me about these activities is the participation of Jordanian archaeologists in the digging, classifying and studying of the finds. These are young men and women who have been trained in the best Western traditions of the academic and field work, and have been experimenting in the country in the field. Now these young people, especially the earlier group, are already well known for their works on the land and abroad.

As an historian seriously interested in archaeology as an important source of information for us, I have known quite a number of Jordanian archaeologists. One such active person is Professor Khair Yassine of the Department of Archaeology in the University of Jordan. We first met when we were colleagues (1976-

1978) at that university.

Prof. Yassine has dug fairly extensively in Jordan, mainly in the Ghor (Jordan Valley). I visited him while working at Deir Alla, and one or two other places. Whenever I visit Jordan I make it a point to look him up (as well as others).

When the fifth conference on the history of Bilad Al Sham was held in Amman recently (March 4-8, 1990), I met Yassine. He kindly presented me with a copy of his "Archaeology of Jordan — Essays and Reports." To claim having read the 273-page volume would tax my conscience, but I have carefully leafed through it, making brief notes here and there to satisfy a curious eye gazing at one of the numerous plates, intriguingly trying to fathom the meaning of the contours of a map; or more leisurely reading a page or so about an interesting item.

This was enough to prove to me that the budding scholar of the early 70s is the mature one of the 90s. The first part of the book deals with specific issues and analyses and the second

treats the excavations conducted by Yassine himself; the surveys cover the third part and Yassine has been a member of a team which undertook the survey. Each of these three parts has its own distinctive characteristics; probably the one on excavation has more of the personal touch than the others.

Yassine was at a loss where to place a lone chapter (written with James Sauer), so he stuck it at the end and gave it the miserable name of Addendum — its subject matter deals with "History and Archaeology of Jordan in Perspective." This addendum interested me most: It is, as far as I am concerned, an approval, coming from two archaeologists, of my call for at least fifty years of the use of archaeology to the historian. The different periods (historically conceived) of Jordanian history are tied to the archaeological achievements of the spade and shovel.

The book is, by the way, profusely illustrated, beautifully produced and "made in Amman."

A tribute to Charles de Gaulle

By Oliver Clement

FEW MEN have marked the history of France as much as Charles de Gaulle. In 30 years of public life, he saved the country from the Nazi invader (1940-45), renewed the institutions of the republic (1958) and introduced a bold and vigorous international policy (1958-69) putting France back in a strong position on a world level. And he achieved all that amid the most extraordinary exterior and interior turmoil, storms and dangers. De Gaulle had a character, a will and a broadness of thought which made him the key person of modern France.

So 1990, which will simultaneously mark the hundredth anniversary of the great man's birth on Nov. 22, 1890, the 50th anniversary of the call of June 18, 1940 and also the 20th anniversary of his death on Nov. 9, 1970, will be "De Gaulle Year." Numerous events will thus be held this year and by them the nation will pay homage to the person and action of this exceptional man who so greatly marked the destiny of France.

The Charles de Gaulle Institute is in charge of organising the various events planned.

The mission of this institute, founded in 1971, is to gather and preserve items which will enable everybody, and particularly young people, to gain a better understanding of General de Gaulle's work and to appreciate its scope. It is thus quite natural that this private organisation, known for its independence and the quality of its work, should have been put in charge of this commemorative year. Bernard Tricot, a member of the institute's board of directors, has been appointed as the general coordinator of this huge operation whose main activities will be centred on the important dates in the general's life.

On June 15, 1990, a big exhibition on de Gaulle will be inaugurated at the Bibliotheque Nationale library. Manuscripts, original documents and numerous personal objects will be on display. At that same period, quite a different event will take place in the Champs de Mars, under the auspices of Radio France. This will consist in the final of a competition for thousands of children, aged 10 to 12, from all over France. The aim is to describe the life of General de Gaulle using the most modern and most popular of the media, the comic strip, the themes of the entries will be chosen according to the different regions. The North will deal with the general's birth in Lille, Lorraine will base its entries on the Lorraine Cross, which is a traditional de Gaulle emblem, etc.

On June 17, a plaque will be placed at the Arc de Triomphe, bearing the text of the call of June 18, 1940. On the same evening, a very important event will be held in the same place to honour the French Resistance with torchbearers converging on the Arc de Triomphe. On June 18, the usual ceremonies which are held every year to commemorate that historic date, will take place with, in particular, homage paid to the martyrs of the resistance, at Mont-Valerien.

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The Nov. 9 is the date of de Gaulle's sudden death, just 20 years ago. Every year, his death is honoured on that date by the Compagnons de la Liberation. In 1990, it will be honoured with particular solemnity. After mass, celebrated at Saint-Louis des Invalides church, a special train will take the general's companions and faithful followers to Colomby where, not far from his house, "la Boisserie," (which has become a museum today), stands a huge Lorraine cross, perpetuating the memory of de Gaulle and his action in the service of France.

One of the most important events devoted to General de

Gaulle in 1990 will take place at the time of the anniversary of his birth a hundred years ago in Lille. This is the international symposium organised by UNESCO whose theme will be "De Gaulle in his century." There will be no fewer than 300 participants from 50 countries. It will be held from Nov. 19 to 24. On Nov. 17, the model of a monument to the memory of Charles de Gaulle, designed by Olivier Debre, will be inaugurated at Porte Maillot in Paris. On Nov. 18, the participants from the symposium will go to Colomby. On the 19th the opening session will be held. Numerous contributions will be made on themes such as "De Gaulle and the media" or "De Gaulle and decolonisation."

According to the Charles de Gaulle Institute in charge of organising the symposium, "20 years after de Gaulle's death and 50 years after he made history, it is essentially a matter of appreciating the memory that his contemporaries in France and in the world have kept of him, to see what kind of image younger generations have of him, and to measure the influence of his writings, his actions and his whole personality."

The symposium will end with receptions at the prime minister's residence (Matignon) and Paris City Hall. The year 1990 will also be marked by a series of publications. "Extraits pour l'Avenir: De Gaulle a dit" will be re-edited by Editions Press Pocket. The Charles de Gaulle Institute will bring out an international bibliography of works published about General de Gaulle. The four annual issues of "L'Esprit," the institute's review, will be devoted to the 1990 commemoration. Television programmes will also be shown.

The de Gaulle year will also be looking abroad. A travelling film and exhibition will be shown all over the world by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

— L'Actualite en France.

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'Thieves in the night' Israel parliament approves \$31.2b budget amid protests

TEL AVIV (AP) — The parliament early Friday approved its fiscal budget amid a furor over political allocations to religious parties and one legislator labelled Israel's leaders "thieves in the night."

Most of the wrath focused over the earmarking of over \$110 million (230 million shekels) to religious institutions pushed forward by the right-wing Likud bloc headed by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and snowballed by Shimon Peres' centre-left Labour Party.

Both major parties need the backing of the key ultra-orthodox factions to break the 60-60 parliamentary tie and both sides have been wooing them with offers of political jobs and funds to Yeshivas (religious seminaries), as enticements for their support.

The amount tripled the special allocations to religious institu-

tions. Likud and Labour, meanwhile, joined forces to push through two and a half million dollars (five million shekels) for their party-affiliated institutions and \$10 million was added to the budget for settlements.

The legislature voted 42 to 10 to approve the \$31.2 billion (62.5 billion shekels) budget for fiscal 1990/1 following a heated marathon debate spanning over 40 hours.

David Levy, Likud housing minister, managed to push through approval for an additional \$100 million (200 million shekels) for building 30,000 apartment units for the expected wave of Soviet immigrants.

During a filibuster prior to the budget debate, Haim Oron of the socialist Mapam Party lashed out at the backroom dealing of the major parties to woo over the religious factions.

"The expression 'thieves in the

night' is not slander, it is not a bad term for the parliament. It is a minimal description in polite words of what is going on," he said.

Dan Meridor, justice minister from Likud, agreed the budget suffered from the political crisis brought about when the government fell after Shamir lost a no-confidence vote earlier this month.

"This budget has things that perhaps in an ordinary period could have been refrained from. We couldn't refrain from them all today," he said on Israel Radio. "I hope all the deviations... will have no macroeconomic effect on the economy, and that in the future we will learn to act together," Meridor said.

But Yair Levy, a legislator of the six-seat ultra-orthodox Shas Party, was encouraged by the allocations.

"Today we can say we have started the process of reducing the gaps between ultra-orthodox education and regular schooling," he said on Israel Radio.

Outraged Israelis protested the allocations to institutions belonging to the ultra-orthodox Jews, most of whom are exempt from army service.

Students from the Labour Party, dressed as ultra-orthodox with black hats and side curls demonstrated outside their party's headquarters in Tel Aviv and called on party leaders to stop "bowing down" to religious parties because their youths do not serve in the army, Israel Radio, reported.

Shlomo Ben-Ezri, an instructor at one religious seminary justified the government funds they will receive in the new budget.

"We are taking care of Israeli boys who were about to fall into crime," he told Israel Television.

Iranian exporters face hurdles

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — An Iranian official Thursday complained that lack of facilities and

cumbersome government regulations were impeding exports of non-oil products, Tehran Radio

reported.

The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, quoted the unidentified commerce ministry official as saying that "the current banking and commercial structures of the country are geared completely toward imports, and these facilities have never been made available to exporters."

The official's complaint came at a time when President Hashemi Rafsanjani's government is pressing to boost non-oil exports

Iran relies on oil and gas-related exports for more than 90 per cent of its foreign exchange.

But the budget for the current Iranian year, which began March 21, projects revenues from non-oil exports at more than \$18 billion.

The official Thursday said that "exporters of non-oil goods must pass through hundreds of offices, obtain as many licenses, and face various problems to send out samples and market their products," the radio reported.

Tokyo stock prices register steep drop

TOKYO (AP) — Prices on the Tokyo Stock Exchange dropped more than 1,000 points in a market dominated by profit-taking and discouragement Friday, while the U.S. dollar surged against the Japanese yen.

The market's key index, the Nikkei stock average of 225 selected issues, lost 1,045.71 points, or 3.37 per cent — in the market's seventh largest decline in terms of both points and percentage — to end the week at 29,981.45.

The Nikkei fell 237.41 points Thursday. Securities dealers said prices fell on selling across the board due to a decline in the value of the Japanese yen against the dollar and an overnight fall on Wall Street.

Heavy selling pressure prevented the traditional "window dressing," or bidding up stock prices to increase the recorded value of firms' stock holdings at the end of the fiscal year, March 31.

Brokerages remained on the sidelines because "they knew that if they bought, they'd only be battered by heavy selling," said Yoshihiro Ito, general manager of stock trading at Okasan Securities.

The selling pressure prevented further buying of blue-chip issues that had rebounded earlier in the week, dealers said.

Wide expectations of a further weakening of the yen beyond the 160 yen per U.S. dollar level also sapped buying interest, said Shin Tokoi, deputy general manager of stock trading at County Natwest Securities.

Volume was a relatively light 500 million shares. In currency dealings, the dollar

rebounded to close at 157.65 yen, up 1.00 yen from Thursday's close of 156.65 yen. After opening at 156.80 yen, the currency ranged between 156.75 yen and 157.95 yen.

It surged sharply higher at midday under what some dealers described as suspicious circumstances.

Numerous dealers, Japanese and foreign, said a sudden rise to almost 158 yen smacked of collusion among the small number of banks involved in fixing the year-end rate, which was set at 158 yen. The banks involved appeared to have bid the dollar up to lock in windfall profits, they said.

An official at the Bank of Japan said the central bank was considering investigating inquiries about the dollar's sudden rise just at the time the market's year-end dollar-yen rate is fixed. The year-end rate is used by many firms as a benchmark exchange rate.

The dollar has been advancing against the yen for several weeks as Japanese corporations bought the currency, amid general pessimism about the yen, to help improve their balance sheets at the close of their fiscal year.

Thursday, the yen made a brief recovery in Tokyo after rebounding in New York Wednesday following intervention by the U.S. Federal Reserve.

But most dealers saw the recovery as temporary. They said strong demand for dollars due to an outflow of capital from Japan is the single largest factor pushing the dollar's value higher against the yen.

"The demand for the dollar is very big," said a dealer at a long-term credit bank.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, March 29, 1990					
Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell			
U.S. dollar	669.0	673.0	French franc	116.7	117.4
Pound Sterling	1092.1	1098.7	Japanese yen (for 100)	427.7	430.3
Deutschmark	392.6	395.0	Dutch guilder	348.7	350.8
Swiss franc	443.0	445.7	Swedish crown	108.8	109.5
			Italian lira (for 100)	53.4	53.7
			Belgian franc (for 10)	190.6	191.7

Amman Financial Market weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:

	March 24-28	March 17-21
Daily average	JD 467,238	JD 656,764
Total volume	JD 2,336,189	JD 3,283,819
Total shares	1,277,774	1,975,424
No. of contracts	2,086	2,556
Sectoral trading:		
Industrial	JD 1,093,107 (46.8%)	JD 1,898,049 (57.8%)
Financial	JD 731,037 (31.3%)	JD 517,806 (15.8%)
Service	(20.4%)	(25.8%)
Insurance	(1.5%)	(0.6%)
Share price index	135.0	135.8
No. of companies	59	65
Price movement (rise)	13	16
(decline)	34	39
(stable)	12	10

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.6415/25	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1715/25	Canadian dollar
	1.6940/47	Deutschemarks
	1.9060/70	Dutch guilders
	1.4970/80	Swiss francs
	35.01/06	Belgian francs
	5.6975/7025	French francs
	1248/1249	Italian lire
	157.27/37	Japanese yen
	6.1195/1245	Swedish crowns
	6.5570/5620	Norwegian crowns
	6.4635/85	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	371.75/372.25	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Australia's share market closed weaker but off its lows after a day of volatile trading. The All Ordinaries index finished 11.4 points off at 1,535.7.

TOKYO — The Nikkei index plunged below the 30,000-point mark, partly on selling by institutional fund managers before closing their books at the end of the fiscal year. Disappointment at the yen's failure to sustain Thursday's gains against the dollar worsened the sell-off. The index ended at 29,980.45, down 1,045.71.

HONG KONG — Share prices closed easier on profit-taking before the weekend. The Hang Seng index fell 2.54 to 2,997.98.

SINGAPORE — Share prices closed lower across the board on stoploss selling and profit-taking in nervous reaction to the Tokyo plunge. The Straits Times industrial index fell 13.13 to 1,581.08.

BOMBAY — Shares were bullish in hectic trading for the new account, after carry-forward charges for business done in the two weeks ended Thursday were fixed lower than expected. The Bombay Stock Exchange index rose 13.31 points to 781.05.

FRANKFURT — Shares closed 0.8 per cent higher in lively trading. The DAX index hit a new high of 1,976.43 early in the session but closed at 1,968.55, up 14.66.

ZURICH — Shares closed slightly firmer on low volume. Trading was quiet before the weekend and prices fluctuated in a narrow range. The SPI index ended 2.5 up at 1,079.6.

PARIS — Prices were higher by midday, boosted by soft short-term money market rates.

LONDON — Stocks gave up their mid-session gains and headed lower towards the close after an early fall on Wall Street. At 1516 GMT the FTSE index was down 16.8 at 2,246.2.

NEW YORK — Futures-related selling prompted by Tokyo's plunge drove blue chips down in morning trading. The Dow was down 21 at 2,705.

Bulgaria stresses market economy

SOFIA (AP) — Bulgarian Premier Andrei Lukanov introduced his government's long-term economic plan to parliament, stressing liberalisation, austerity and more private ownership, the BTA news agency reported.

Bulgaria's future priorities in its drive to change its centralised command economy inherited from four decades of communist rule, are a marked improvement of material supplies domestically, anti-inflation measures and the curbing of the country's foreign debt.

"There is no alternative to market economy," BTA quoted Lukanov as saying.

According to the new economic guidelines, after years during

which the wasteful and polluting heavy industry was given preference over agriculture and consumer goods, Bulgaria's new look economy is to undergo a shift of priorities.

Agriculture, food and light industries, trade, services and tourism would get a bigger share of state investment to alleviate food and energy shortages which became widespread in recent years.

"Urgent measures and a radical economic reform, which should secure a fast transition to a market economy, are needed to help the economy out of its current crisis," BTA said.

State-owned businesses in industry, construction, road and water transport, in trade, services

and tourism, will be sold to private Bulgarian and foreign companies, the report said.

The government will allow companies to lease out machinery, equipment, premises, transportation vehicles, workshops, as well as small and medium-sized businesses, the report said without elaboration.

By the end of May, the government will prepare the legal framework laying down rules for the establishment of private joint-stock banks.

The long-term economic programme would be drafted by the new parliament after the June elections.

Among the measures contemplated to encourage free enter-

prise in agriculture, all farmers, irrespective of the form of ownership, will be entitled to keep 50 per cent of their foreign currency earnings obtained after the export of their produce, the agency said.

However, because of a slash in imports to save hard currency, shortages will persist domestically as the Bulgarian "government has no other way to normalise (the country's) balance of payments," BTA said.

The government report said the belt-tightening measures were expected to bring the foreign currency deficit down from \$1.3 billion dollars in 1989 to some \$700 million this year.

Bonn renews commitment to monetary union with East Germany this summer

BONN (R) — The West German government Thursday renewed its commitment to monetary union with East Germany this summer after apparent doubts about the timetable.

West German Economics Minister Helmut Haussmann said agreement between the two Germanys on monetary and economic union would be reached before early May.

"Fundamental decisions will be settled before East German common elections on May 6," Haussmann said in a guest article published in Friday's edition of Die Welt.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl, in the same newspaper, said East Germans must already be able to feel the effect of currency union before their holidays in July.

The renewed commitment to monetary union this summer came a day after the chief spokesman for West German Finance Minister Theo Waigel said monetary union between the two Germanys could take longer than previously indicated.

Just working out the necessary laws could last well into the summer if negotiations to form a new East German government drag on, the spokesman said.

"I think the politicians are backpedalling," economist Warren Oliver of UBS Phillips & Drew in London said earlier. "It is most noticeable in politics but also on the monetary side."

The main opposition party, the Social Democratic Party (SPD) was critical of any delay.

SPD spokeswoman Ingrid Matthies-Maier said East German companies were relying on promises made by Kohl's government during the East German election campaign to introduce the West German mark by July 1 at the latest.

"It would be irresponsible if the West German government begins rebuilding the young democracy with a broken promise," she said.

However, several questions on monetary union still need to be answered. Chief among these is

the exchange rate for East to West German marks, the cost of opening East Germany's backward industry to fierce global competition, and who will pay.

The search for answers has been slowed by lack of knowledge about East Germany's economy, and understanding of their accounting techniques.

"We don't even know how to distinguish between a firm that is profitable and one that operates at a loss," one West German economist said.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (REP) EXPORT TRADE AND PRODUCTIVE INVESTMENT PROJECT

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) mission to Jordan, in cooperation with the Ministry of Planning of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, announces to interested Jordanian and American firms, or joint venture therefore, the availability of a request for proposals for the design and implementation of the export trade and productive investment project. The objective of this project is to increase the net export earnings of Jordanian private sector firms; and to improve financial intermediation in Jordan, especially for enterprises with strong export potential.

Work is divided into two components: trade and finance. In the area of trade, the contractor will assist: 1) Jordanian companies in penetrating new markets and acquiring the technology needed to produce internationally competitive products and services; and 2) In developing policies, procedures and regulations to promote exports. In the area of finance, the contractor will assist in: 1) Developing an export credit insurance and guaranty agency; 2) Improving access to credit; 3) Increasing the volume of venture capital available to exporters; 4) Enhancing the operations of the Amman Financial Market; and 5) Improving the policies, procedures, and regulations affecting both primary and secondary debt and equity markets.

At the discretion of USAID and the government of Jordan separate contracts may be awarded for the two separate components.

Qualified Jordanian firms who are interested in receiving a copy of the REP should submit a written request no later than Tuesday, April 3, 1990 to the following address:

United States Agency for International Development
C/O American Embassy
Third Circle, Jabal Amman
Amman, Jordan
Attention: Private Enterprise Office

Firms that submit a written request by April 3 may pick up a copy of the REP from the USAID offices at Fourth Circle, Jabal Amman on Wednesday, April 11 only.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY MARCH 31, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A fine day to get your affairs in a very solid and secure structure by making a point to work every possible angle in that direction and to show that you are willing to forget wishful thinking.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Put yourself in a position to be more aware of the needs and desires of your household and to find new ways to make family happier.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) In any communications with other persons make sure that you add a personal note of friendship to strengthen bonds between you and them.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Look at what you possess and see what you can best do to increase its value by adding something others regard as attractive and valuable.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) You can count more than usual care today so don't hold back but get closer to those you like by actively expressing it in little ways.

LEO (July 22 to August 21) Quietly let your close attachment know more definitely of the love and affection that you feel for that person and you reap big rewards.

VIRGO (August 22 to September 22) Consider what friend has been having a most difficult time and do what you can to appease any un-

happiness by a lighthearted spirit towards him/her.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You make your biggest progress now by expressing your special charm in the world of outside activities and especially with influential persons.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A new acquaintance who is connected with a close companion is the best person for you to concentrate on for deeper later friendships.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) An associate who is usually very restless and nervous will respond to your desire for you a more worthwhile alliance now so contact this person.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 30) A friend who has been out of sorts can be put in a good humour by you if you take the time to develop more interest in mutual joint concerns.

AQUARIUS (January 31 to February 19) A fine day to arrange the entertainments and recreations that appeal to you the best and to invite those you like to join you in them.

PISCES (February 20 to March 20) You are naturally quite traditional in thought and deed by if you want to take some chance in another direction, this is the day to do so.

THE Daily Crossword by C.F. Murray

ACROSS

- 1 Tentmaker
- 5 Mid art colony
- 9 Lead film
- 14 Artist Magritte
- 15 Sp. rhy
- 16 "Tucker"
- 17 Warbled
- 18 Winged
- 19 "sells"
- 20 The slots
- 22 Vegas starter
- 24 Inclines
- 25 Ski resort
- 26 "Little Women"
- 30 Go — tear
- 32 Craggy hill
- 34 Skunk
- 36 Fleet
- 39 MacLaine
- 42 TV street
- 43 Square pillar
- 44 Ripon
- 45 Legal matter
- 46 Country
- 48 Field away
- 50 Pans
- 52 Elec. unit
- 53 Hot spot in 1970
- 54 Have a get-together
- 62 Morays
- 63 Opera prince
- 64 Let's up
- 66 Taron
- 68 Amuse
- 67 Cubic meter
- 68 Grot — the line (obeyed)

DOWN

- 1 About
- 2 Signify
- 3 "— of Green
- 4 Feast
- 5 Lions and
- 6 Tigres
- 8 Sulted
- 7 Toward the mouth
- 9 food dessert
- 9 Can game
- 10 Like Adonis
- 11 No man?
- 12 No in Moscow
- 13 Corn units
- 21 "The — of Red Chlo"
- 22 Shocked
- 25 Lawyers: abbr.
- 26 Planting machine
- 27 Ordinary language
- 28 Nipped
- 29 Allen or
- 30 Frame
- 31 Twangy
- 32 Sea
- 35 Opening bout
- 37 Gives new weapons
- 38 Dazzled
- 40 Pin e.g.
- 41 Goal
- 47 Somme city
- 49 Slate
- 51 Delta
- 52 Visher's territory
- 53 — bleni
- 54 Andor
- 56 Trick
- 56 Vault
- 57 Nobel winner
- 58 Wined
- 59 Exchange premium
- 59 Not any
- 60 — Scott

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

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- 58 Wined
- 59 Exchange premium
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THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

HARRIS 3-21

CHIPS

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

FINKE

NILTE

BAUSCA

ROTGOT

WHERE THE FANATIC'S TRAIN OF THOUGHT ALWAYS RAN.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: ON A

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: LIGHT AGLOW GIBBON INTONE
Answer: What some evening dresses are — MORE GONE THAN GOWN

Duke vs. Arkansas, Georgia Tech vs. Nevada-Las Vegas in final four

DENVER (AP) — Georgia Tech and Duke both hail from the Atlantic Coast Conference, and both rely on freshman point guards. So much for similarities.

While it certainly isn't unusual for one conference to have two teams in the final four — it's happened three times in a row, six times in the last decade — rarely have they brought such different histories to the National Collegiate Athletic Association Tournament.

Duke, which meets Arkansas (30-4) in the first game of Saturday's semifinal doubleheader, has become a fixture in the final four.

Duke (28-6) has been there four of the past five years and the last three in a row. Only John Wooden of UCLA with 12 appearances in 14 years can match what coach Mike Krzyzewski has done at Duke. Still, Krzyzewski has yet to win a national championship.

Georgia Tech faces Nevada-Las Vegas (33-5), the preseason no. 1 team and only top seed to get to Denver, in the second semifinal. Georgia Tech (28-6) is making its first final four appearance after a decade of being expected to get there.

The teams do have one thing in common: freshman point guards.

Georgia Tech's Kenny Anderson and Duke's Bobby Hurley came on the scene at the same time after spectacular high school careers in the New York area.

"You have to remember they were ranked as the best point guards in the east, no question, and in the country as well," Georgia Tech coach Bobby Cremins said. "I would have loved to have Bobby Hurley in this programme. He's a great point guard."

The one he got is no slouch, either.

Anderson, the smoothest and fastest man with the ball in college right now, has stepped up from an impressive rookie season with a 27-point average in the postseason, including a controversial buzzer-beater to send the regional semifinal against Michigan state into overtime.

Hurley has been more content to be the playmaker, with 30 assists in the four tournament games. He was 0-for-9 shooting against Connecticut in the east regional final, and his driving, last-second shot in regulation was knocked away by the Huskies' Rod Sellers.

Both Anderson and Hurley will have an interesting match-up Saturday.

Anderson will have to deal with the pressure defense of Nevada-Las Vegas, especially the tenacious Anderson Hunt. Hunt is averaging 15.4 points per game, but is known for his defense.

"We like to play man-to-man," Nevada-Las Vegas coach Jerry Tarkanian said. "If you watch us in the zone, we work as hard as we do in the man-to-man. We go out and challenge every pass. We want to put the pressure on."

Hurley will have to deal with Southwest Conference co-player of the year Lee Mayberry, who averages 14.6 points and nearly six assists per game.

"Hurley is sort of the head of their whole show," said Arkansas coach Nolan Richardson. "I'm trying to cut off the head, and the head is Hurley."

Duke starts a frontline which features Christian Laettner, 16.3 points and 9.4 rebounds, and Alaa Abdelnaby, 14.9 and 6.7.

Arkansas relies more on a perimeter game with Oliver Miller and Mario Credit, both 6-9, given the assignment of stopping Duke's big men.

Webb in Manchester United starting line-up

LONDON (R) — England midfielder Neil Webb will play his first full game for Manchester United for seven months Saturday.

Webb, who came on as substitute at Southampton last Saturday for the final 25 minutes of United's 2-0 win, is in the United starting line-up for the First Division clash with Coventry at Old Trafford.

Webb had been out of action since he ruptured his Achilles tendon on England duty against Sweden in Stenkebalm last September.

Said United manager Alex Ferguson: "He did well for a first appearance of the season and had an immediate influence on the team."

Ferguson will be looking to Webb to play a key role in United's battle to haul themselves away from the relegation zone.

Coventry boss John Sillett has ordered his first-team players to take hospital blood tests to discover the reason for their recent lethargic displays.

He thought they looked jaded in the two home defeats by Sheffield Wednesday and Charlton. "It's just a precaution," he said. "It baffled me that all our midfield players seemed to have no energy."

"We don't expect any problems when we get the results of the tests, but at least it will have put our minds at rest."

Soviet international defender Alexei Cherednik is expected to make his debut for Southampton against title favourites Liverpool on Saturday.

Cherednik, who has played four reserve matches and was substitute in the defeat by Manchester United last week, is the obvious replacement for left back Francis Benali who begins a three-match ban.

Southampton's former Liverpool midfielder Jimmy Case is available again after completing a similar suspension.

Aston Villa play Manchester City Sunday so Liverpool will displace them as league leaders if they beat Southampton at Anfield. Villa boast a three-point lead but have played two games more than Liverpool.

Australia, New Zealand even at 1-1 in Davis Cup

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) — Wally Masur crushed Kelly Evernden in straight sets Friday to lift Australia into a 1-1 tie with underdog New Zealand in the Davis Cup world group quarter-final at Milton Tennis center.

Masur triumphed 6-3, 7-6 (7-0), 6-1 in under two hours, blowing Evernden off the court with a powerful serve-and-volley game.

New Zealand's squad had jumped out to a 1-0 lead when Brett Steven, ranked 429th in the world, upset experienced John Fitzgerald in a five-set battle.

Steven, a 20-year-old playing

only the third Davis Cup singles of his career, rallied from the brink of defeat to win 1-6, 0-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 in a contest twice interrupted by rain.

Fitzgerald was controversially included as a singles player in the Australian team ahead of Mark Kratzmann — and the move back-fired on captain Neale Fraser.

Steven, who spent a year at Southern Methodist University, grew in confidence as the match progressed and played smart tennis to fight back from two sets to one and 1-4 down.

"I was pretty nervous early on and it showed, but I just got stronger and stronger," Steven said. "I knew I was fit enough to play five sets and I took advantage when he went off his game a little bit."

Fitzgerald, a grass court expert playing his first Davis Cup singles for over three years, became increasingly sluggish as the match progressed.

"I've no excuses, but I'm going to have nightmares about it tonight," Fitzgerald said. "I don't think I've ever led that easily and lost."

Olympic museum — Sports Fans' Disneyland

LAUSANNE (AP) — An Olympic museum billed as the Sports Fans' Disneyland is being built on the shores of Lake Geneva, but one of its designers worries that the plan may lessen the glory of the games.

The Olympic museum, a sprawling \$30 million project, will finally give the International Olympic Committee enough space to display warehouses full of memorabilia ranging from desks to torches, and chronicle the games from ancient Greece to today.

Using videotapes, computers and other state-of-the-art technology, it also will give the average fan a chance to sample the flavor of being an Olympic athlete, such as crouching into starting blocks for an 100-metre dash or looking down a 90-metre ski run.

"It will not be a museum of sport but of the Olympics, and not just the Olympic games but the Olympic movement," said Raymond Gafner, the IOC's former administrator who is in charge of the museum project.

Concrete is just being poured at the site, and the exterior should be finished by 1991 with another year or so to do the interior work.

The grand opening is set for late 1993, just before the IOC's 100th birthday.

With corporate donations paying for most of the development, the IOC is concentrating on what the museum will show and how it will show it.

The design by architects Pedro Ramirez Vazquez, an IOC member from Mexico, and Jean-Pierre Cahen provides 2,500 square metres and the committee has hundreds of thousands of exhibits from which to choose.

Ramirez Vazquez wants the museum to emphasise "the positive" — the glory of winning, not the drug scandals, political boycotts and other intrusions of the real world that have accompanied the growth of the games in the last three decades.

"It will not present the sensationalist or yellow (but) present the transcendence of the Olympic games at their best, showing the creativity of mankind, not his worst actions, not his negativity," Ramirez Vazquez said.

He seemed most sensitive about the events surrounding the 1968 games in Mexico City. Three days before the opening ceremonies, troops opened fire on students demonstrating

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against massive government spending on Olympic projects, the official death toll was 37, although students say as many as 300 were killed.

Jean-Francois Pahud, the museum director, said he disagreed with Ramirez Vazquez on this, one of the few points where differences have developed in the project.

Mentioning cases such as the Mexico City violence and the steroid use by sprinter Ben Johnson in Seoul were important for establishing the museum's credibility, the director said.

"The concept of (Ramirez Vazquez) would be to eliminate these unlovely parts. But I think to be accepted we must have these unlovely parts," Pahud said. "It must not be a main part, but it must not be forgotten."

Pahud and Gafner, the project chief, also said the IOC aimed at building "the museum of the 21st century," which will do more than just have artifacts in display cases and articles in a hushed library.

Entries for 1990 Indianapolis 500

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The Indianapolis motor speedway received entries Thursday for Bobby Rahal, winner of the closest three-car finish in Indianapolis 500 history, and Al Unser Jr., who was bumped into the wall less than two laps from the checkered flag a year ago.

Two cars apiece for Rahal and Unser were among five Chevrolet-powered Lola entries submitted by the new Galles-Kraco racing team of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Three other entries, listing Pancho Carter as driver of two of them, were filled

by Leader Cards, Inc., of Milwaukee.

The eight cars raised the entry total to 76, with more than a

dozen others expected before the midnight April 2 deadline. The speedway opens for practice May 5, with qualifications May 12-13

and May 19-20 for the May 27 race.

Platini dreams of World Cup glory

PARIS (R) — French national team chief Michel Platini said Friday his present squad would have had a chance of winning this summer's World Cup in Italy — if France had qualified.

Platini, looking back on the French team's most successful season ever, told the sports daily L'Equipe in an interview: "We

would have gone there with the aim of winning. Perhaps we wouldn't have done it. There's a good chance that we wouldn't have. But I say this team would have had some punch."

"After all, we beat three teams (Sweden, Scotland and West Germany) who are going to Italy... ah well, we must stop dream-

ing." France, semifinalists with Platini as a player in the 1982 and 1986 finals, failed to qualify for Italy because of poor results, notably a 1-1 draw in Cyprus, the previous season.

Platini has transformed the French side in the past year into an attractive, attacking team.

Brazil learns lesson from soccer loss

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Brazilians blamed a referee's disputed call for Brazil's 1-0 loss to England in an exhibition soccer match Wednesday but admitted their team must improve before the World Cup in June.

In the controversial play, Brazilian attacker, Muller shot and British defender Pearce appeared to block the ball with his hand, after it had crossed the goal line. But German referee Klaus Fessel failed to mark any infraction.

"Brazil robbed in London," "Brazil loses on referee's error," and

"what a thieving referee," were some of the headlines in Rio newspapers Thursday.

The loss was the team's first since last June, when Brazil lost 1-0 to Switzerland.

"Brazil tied 1-1 with England and lost 1-0 to Germany," joked Mario Zagallo, former All-star player and coach of Brazil's 1970 world championship team.

However, the sporting press criticized the defensive style of play ordered by coach Sebastiao Lazaroni and questioned whether it was the

best tactic for the upcoming World Cup in Italy. Lazaroni uses a European-style sweeper and four defences, with only two attackers.

"It's clear the team plays too defensively. In trying to make Brazil play the European way, Lazaroni doesn't have options to give the team more offense," said sports commentator Joao Mazinho of Rio's JB radio station.

Lazaroni said the team's mediocre showing was in part due to lack of training. Brazil had not played since December, when it beat the Netherlands 1-0 in Rotterdam.

However, many worry that Brazil has sacrificed its trademark offensive firepower. In its last 10 games, the team has not scored more than one goal except against fragile Venezuela, the doormat of South American soccer.

"Brazil has never won a World Cup by stressing defence more than

offense. For that reason, yesterday's result was not a defeat — it was a warning," wrote Roberto Benevides of the newspaper O Estado de Sao Paulo.

Against England, Brazil improved in the second half with the entrance of Muller and midfielder Alamo, considered the top players along with midfielder Valdo and defender Branco. But the team never presenting the "audacious" offence promised by Lazaroni.

"The goal that the referee didn't validate was unforgivable and probably shook up Brazil. But we missed several scoring chances through over-cautiousness and lack of creativity," said Didi, a veteran of Brazil's world championship teams in 1958 and 1962.

On the British team, sportswriters chose midfielder Waddle, attackers Barnes and Lineker as the standouts.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HIRSCH

SEEKING ISN'T ALWAYS BELIEVING

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ J 8 6
♥ K 6 2
♦ 10 7 3
♣ Q J 8 4

WEST **EAST**

♠ 5 3 ♠ Q 10
♥ A 10 7 ♥ J 8 5 3
♦ Q 4 4 2 ♦ K J 9
♣ K 9 5 3 ♣ 10 7 6 2

SOUTH

♠ A K 9 7 4 2
♥ Q 9 4
♦ A 5 5
♣ A

The bidding:

South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♠

In his Bole Bridge Tip, Terence Reese suggests that there are times when a simple falsecard may achieve a spectacular result for the defense. This is one of the hands Reese cites to illustrate the point.

After a simple auction, North-South reach a contract of four spades. Since a lead from any of the plain suits is unappealing, West chooses to lead a trump.

Let's see what would happen with routine defense. East's ten would force the king and declarer would cash the ace. When both opponents follow, declarer cashes the ace of clubs, crosses to the jack of spades and leads the queen of clubs. If East covers with the king, declarer ruffs and, since the ace of hearts is with West, another red-suit loser can be discarded on the jack of clubs. If East does not cover, declarer discards a diamond and, at most, he loses a trick in hearts, diamonds and clubs. Either way, the contract would be cold.

Now let's suppose East were to play the queen of trumps on the opening lead. Declarer wins and, if the trump queen were indeed singleton, there is a safer line to 10 tricks than relying on West to hold the ace of hearts. Declarer could cash the ace of clubs and then lead a trump to the right, playing West for the ten. That allows East to gain the lead with the ten of spades and a diamond return dooms the contract. With an unexpected trump trick in the bank, the defenders must come to three more tricks no matter how declarer maneuvers.

ANGLICAN CHURCH IN AMMAN

Services in English tomorrow
8 a.m. Holy Communion
6 p.m. Family Communion

Tel: 628543

ADVERTISEMENT Commodity Import Programme (CIP)

Attention: Private Sector Importers and Local Banks

Approximately \$5 million in foreign exchange is available in Commodity Import Programme (CIP) Letter of Credit financing on a first-come, first-served basis to private sector Jordanian importers for eligible imports of U.S. make or manufacture. Priority will be given to imports of raw materials and intermediate goods.

This financing is available at interest rates ranging from 8 to 12 per cent, downpayments of 10 per cent and is payable over periods as follows:

1. Up to one (1) year for raw materials and intermediate goods.
2. Up to three (3) years for capital goods.

To apply, importers should make applications to their local banks and request CIP financing. For additional information, importers or banks may call USAID/Jordan at Tel. No. 604177 and request to talk with CIP Office Personnel.

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Consists of two bedrooms, salon, dining room, 3 bathrooms, with deluxe furniture.
Location: Arjan, the Cooperative Organisation Housing Estate.

Please call tel. 631519, 688881, Al Hilal Real Estate.

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By method of sealed bids (4) four cars. Duty not paid. (3) three are in good running condition, and (1) one unserviceable. The above cars are available for inspection and bidding at the American Embassy Motor Pool, near the 3rd Circle, behind WYCA, on Sunday and Monday, April 1, 2, 1990.

Hours are 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. each day.
Refundable 20% cash deposit required on all bids.

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For further details please contact tel. 667072.

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Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced teachers of English for Grades 1 to 12.

Priority will be given to applicants holding teaching certificates with a minimum of three years experience.

Applications forms are available at the school, open daily (except Fridays) from 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Tel: 846791
P.O. Box 342 Tla' Al Ali

Cinema **RAINBOW** Tel: 625155

Dustin Hoffman
Tom Cruise
In
RAIN MAN

Performances: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **CONCORD** Tel: 677420

WISE GUYS

Performances: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144

Mahmoud Yassin & Najwa Ibrahim in
AWAY FROM THE LAND
(Arabic)

Performances: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **NIJOUN** Tel: 675571

KARAKEEB
(Arabic)

Performances: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 699238

Adel Imam in
AL HALFOUT
Arabic

Performances: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30

De Klerk threatens to use force as violence continues

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Rival black factions battled with guns and knives for a fourth day Friday as thousands of refugees fled from townships after savage fighting left at least 36 people dead and hundreds wounded, police said.

President F.W. de Klerk warned Friday that political violence was becoming a threat to stability and the government would use force to restore order. He said a growing wave of violence and demonstrations was getting out of hand.

"Demonstrators openly espousing violence or preaching class and racial hatred are playing with fire. Fanning these flames may easily lead to a catastrophic intergroup conflagration," he told the Cape Town Press Club.

"De Klerk said he would make a statement to parliament on April 2 on measures to stop the violence, but gave no details. South Africa has been hit by waves of violence that has claimed hundreds of lives in recent weeks.

De Klerk starts talks next month on ending white-minority rule and sharing political power with blacks. The speech Friday appeared to be aimed at radical black groups who oppose a negotiated settlement and call for violence against the government.

Police said they feared more widespread clashes between Zulu war bands in the rugged hill country near Edendale.

"It's very tense. It could erupt again at any time. It's a terrible situation," police Maj. Piet Kitching said.

Police said at least 36 people had been killed since Tuesday in the fighting but many more probably were killed or hurt.

"It's impossible to say how many people have been hurt. It's in the hundreds," Kitching told the Associated Press.

Rival war bands were clashing Friday in rural areas, exchanging gunfire, but the situation was quieter, police said.

Three bombs exploded early Friday in Thohoyandou, capital of the nominally independent homeland of Venda on the Zimbabwe border, police said. No injuries were reported in the homeland that has been hit by

Nicaraguan Indian rebels to disarm

MANAGUA (R) — Nicaraguan Miskito Indian rebel leaders have signed an accord with the incoming Nicaraguan government under which they agreed to disarm their fighters in Honduras by April 20, the office of president-elect Violeta Chamorro said.

A communiqué said Chamorro's envoys negotiated the accord with the Atlantic coast Indian organisation Yataha Thursday, less than a week after contra rebels signed a similar pact in the Honduran capital.

Under the agreement, called the Rio Coco Accord, Yataha fighters in Honduras would lay down their arms by April 20, five days before Chamorro takes office.

Yataha leader Brooklyn Rivera recently said about 1,000 Miskito fighters were in Honduras. It was not immediately known if any had crossed the border into Nicaragua.

Contra leaders have said that as few as 2,000 of their estimated 12,000 combatants remain in Honduran camps, with many having crossed the border in recent weeks.

Meanwhile a contra leader said Thursday most of the 12,000 contra rebels have returned by this weekend, ahead of an April 20 deadline.

"They did not wait for the U.N. forces and to turn in weapons," said Oscar Sovalbarro, a military chief of the Nicaraguan Resistance, the rebels' umbrella group. "Only about 3,000 war wounded and their families remain in the camps," he added.

"A large majority of our combatants have already crossed the Honduran border to go to Nicaragua," Sovalbarro said. "The Nicaraguan Resistance in that way fulfils its promises."

U.S. Ambassador Chris Arcos congratulated President Rafael Leonardo Callejas for his role in getting the rebels to leave Honduras.

The contras have been dissolved ... and Callejas resolved that problem," Arcos told a news conference at the presidential offices.

"It was a notable feat by Callejas," he said. "He must be congratulated for it. His efforts contributed to the demobilisation of the contras."

Callejas sponsored the negotiations, in which Nicaraguan Cardinal Miguel Obando Y Bravo, Archbishop of Managua, also participated.

"In our camps in Yataha there are few weapons and few combatants left and before the end of the week they will be in Nicaragua," Sovalbarro said.

U.S. Navy deploys Trident 2 missile aboard sub

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The navy's newest and deadliest missile — the Trident 2 — has passed all its tests and has been deployed aboard the submarine USS Tennessee, the navy announced.

The Trident 2 is considered by experts to be the most accurate ballistic missile in the U.S. arsenal.

The USS Tennessee will carry 24 of the missiles. Each missile can fire 12 nuclear warheads to individual targets more than 7,400 kilometres away.

On Thursday, the programme formally achieved what is called the initial operational capability. That marks the end of its land-based and submarine-based flight tests, as well as all readiness checks for missiles, crew and equipment aboard the Tennessee, the statement said.

That means, said navy spokesman Cmdr. Craig Quigley, "that it is declared ready for use."

The programme encountered problems last year after two of the first three submarine-launched missiles self-destructed. The programme was declared on track in January after a \$125-million fix of the missile's nozzle system.

The programme cost \$35 billion to date.

"It was delivered two years early and was 12 per cent below the budget originally provided," the navy said in a statement.

Quigley declined to confirm whether the Tennessee had put to sea for its first operational patrol from its base at Kings Bay, Georgia. A military source, however, confirmed that the submarine had done so early Thursday. He spoke on condition he not be named.

Meanwhile a Defence Department spokesman said Thursday, the department plans to cut spending on U.S. nuclear arms programmes beginning in 1992 but that would not necessarily mean dumping the B-2 bomber or two mobile missile programmes.

"It should come as no surprise to anyone that spending on strategic programmes is going to go down," spokesman Pete Williams told reporters when asked about a classified memo from Defence Secretary Dick Cheney to the armed services.

The Washington Post reported Thursday that Cheney's "guidance" for the 1992-1997 defence plan ordered military leaders to prepare for cuts in nuclear spending at a time when he has warned about Soviet nuclear modernisation.

Williams declined to discuss numbers, but said overall cuts in nuclear programmes would not necessarily mean cancellation of the controversial B-2 bomber or plans to mount the 10-warhead "midgetman" missile.

"As a general matter, I can tell you that defence spending overall is going to be declining by about two per cent a year — and strategic spending is part of that," he said.

Cheney, meanwhile, is deciding whether to proceed with a number of high-cost aircraft programmes, including the B-2 bomber. The air force has been pressing Congress for 132 of the radar-evading planes at an expected \$330 million each.

The secretary will decide whether to go ahead with the programmes as planned, cancel them, reduce them or delay development. The other programmes being reassessed for the five-year plan are the C-17 transport plane, the air force advanced tactical fighter (ATF), the navy advanced tactical aircraft (ATA) and the army light helicopter (LHX) programme.

World News in Brief

Belgian parliament ends ban on abortions

BRUSSELS (AP) — In a historic vote ending a 123-year ban, the parliament Thursday approved abortion during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy if the woman is deemed to be in distress. The House of Representatives of this overwhelmingly Catholic nation voted 126 to 69, with 12 abstentions, to do away with an 1867 law that made abortion a criminal offence. The law, although spottily enforced in recent years, provided for prison terms of up to 5 years for offenders. Last November, the senate approved the bill which must now be signed into law by King Baudouin. Thursday's vote leaves Ireland as the only European Community nation with a total ban on abortions.

Thatcher, I'm no great diplomat

CAMBRIDGE, England (AP) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, whose combative style often embroils her in disputes with fellow leaders, admits she sometimes lacks the diplomatic touch, but she's glad about it. "I'm not always the world's greatest diplomat and thank goodness for that. There are more than enough of them," she told an Anglo-German banquet in Cambridge Thursday night. Then, several diplomats being present, she added hastily: "And very good they are. They pick up all our mistakes and say what they thought we meant to say but didn't quite."

S. Korea, Romania open formal ties

SEOUL (AP) — South Korea and Romania signed a protocol Friday opening formal diplomatic relations between the two countries. The protocol was signed by visiting Romanian Deputy Foreign Minister Mircea Mitran and South Korean Foreign Minister Choi Ho-Jung. The signing advanced South Korea's diplomatic thrust into Eastern Europe, which has maintained close relations with Seoul's arch-enemy, Communist North Korea.

U.N. team arrives in Phnom Penh

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — A United Nations team has arrived in Cambodia to examine ways to overcome technical obstacles to the proposed U.N. participation in a future peace

Third Stalin-era mass grave found in E. Germany

SCHMACHTENHAGEN, East Germany (R) — East German soldiers Friday unearthed a mass grave said to contain Germans interned by Stalin's security Police at a former Nazi concentration camp after World War II.

The discovery, in woods north of Berlin, was the third of its kind in a week as East Germany's new democratic authorities relentlessly come to grips with horrors of Stalinism long brushed up by their Communist predecessors.

Reporters watched as East German troops dug up more than 10 human skeletons which officials identified as Germans held at the nearby Sachsenhausen camp after it was seized by Soviet security forces from the Nazis at the end of the war.

Found outside the village of Schmachtenhagen 30 kilometres north of Berlin, the mass grave lay not far from one discovered Tuesday and also linked by officials to deaths at Sachsenhausen under Soviet occupation.

Rusted metal identification plates were found around the ankle bones of skeletons. Sachsenhausen camp survivors have said such plates were attached to the ankles of deceased inmates before they were buried.

"These indicate that the bodies found here came from the internment camp," said Wolfgang Titz, the official in charge of the monument to victims of Sachsenhausen during the Nazi era.

Empty bullet cartridges were also found among the skeletons but their origin was unclear, Titz said. Some cartridges carried markings dating from the war and others appeared to have been made in the mid-1960s.

A local resident said this week she witnessed Soviet troops at Sachsenhausen mow down German prisoners with machine-guns.

But an army major at the excavation site said troops have trained in the Schmachtenhagen area in recent years and commonly hurled bullet casings in the forest.

Top Kashmiri militant killed

SRINAGAR, India (Agencies) — One of Indian-ruled Kashmir's top secessionist militants was shot dead in a clash with troops Friday and at least four passers-by were killed in crossfire, police said.

The said Ashfaq Majid Wani, 26, was killed in central Srinagar when his own grenade exploded in his hand as he fell after being struck by two bullets.

Wani was one of the four area commanders of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), one of the leading groups fighting for an independent Kashmir or to join Muslim Pakistan.

Police said he was also believed to be one of the JKLF's main strategists. They said his death would be a sharp setback for the JKLF, one of about 30 groups fighting Indian rule.

More than 200 people have been killed in Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, since the secessionist campaign burst into major violence in mid-January.

The gunfight in which Wani was killed occurred during a three-hour break in a curfew imposed almost constantly on the Kashmir Valley, where support for the campaign is at its strongest.

On Thursday at least 16 people, mostly civilians caught in

In Pushkin Square Moscovites voice varying views on Lithuania

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But others tell him, "Good for you. We support you and we're watching you to learn from you how to live," said the young Lithuanian, a Moscow resident.

"The average opinion," he said, "is that, 'it's not bad, what you're doing, but maybe you rushed, maybe you didn't think things through, maybe you should have waited for more support, but in all, you've done well.'"

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Front leader and interim President Ion Iliescu, a probable presidential candidate, dismisses such charges as based on "artificially-fuelled suspicions" which could turn into a witch hunt.

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Judges of best-dressed laud Gorbachev

NEW YORK (R) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has received a special commendation for liberating the dress sense of the Soviet man, the influential International Best Dressed poll said. Gorbachev was named for "opening the door to fashion as a means of self-esteem and self-expression to the men of the Eastern Bloc nations after 40 years of enforced anonymity," according to a release from Eleanor Lambert, who created the poll 50 years ago. Britain's Princess Diana and King Juan Carlos of Spain headed a group of 12 people named to the poll's permanent hall of fame, while 24 other people were listed the best-dressed for 1989/90. The lists are compiled by a large international panel of fashion experts and, according to an American commentator, winners must have "money, looks, connections and more money."

Moscow circus sees worst and best of American society

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — The Moscow Circus, on a tour of the United States, discovered the worst and best aspects of American society when equipment stolen from the company's motel was quickly replaced by public donations. While recently performing in Sacramento, California, thieves broke into motel rooms used by the 90 circus members and stole about \$6,000 in video equipment, including some irreplaceable videotapes of their performances. But new equipment paid for by public donations collected by a Sacramento radio station was delivered to the troupe at the end of a performance in San Francisco. "It was a very nice gesture and the artists were most appreciative," said Patricia Robert, an employee of the production company handling the 27-city tour. "A lot of Sacramento's citizens sent in checks to replace it." The circus began its tour in November and returns to the Soviet Union after performances in Cleveland in May.

Robber returns half of the loot

OAK LAWN, Illinois (AP) — A robber who took \$6,600 from a bank in this suburb of west Chicago has sent back half the money by mail. Heritage Bank of Oak Lawn confirmed that it received the money, but police were not impressed. "Just because all of a sudden he gives the money back" does not mean he will walk away, said Oak Lawn Police chief Frank Gilbert. The robber, described by police as a man in his early thirties, walked up to the cashier and told her he had a gun. He handed her a camera case to fill with cash. A video camera recorded the incident, and the tape is being by FBI investigators, said Oak Lawn detective Rick Kerrigan.

4-year-old charged with arson

DANIA, Florida (AP) — A 4-year-old accused of deliberately setting a bed on fire in his home has been charged with first-degree arson, police said. Investigators say the boy used matches to start the fire on a bed. The Broward Sheriff's Office said the blaze caused \$15,000 in damage to the family's apartment in this Florida community. The felony charge will ensure state caseworkers become involved and help the boy, a sheriff's spokesman said Wednesday. The boy was released to his parents' custody. "When you find that a fire was set intentionally by someone that young, he obviously needs psychological help," said sheriff's spokesman Al Gordon. The boy's case will be handled through the juvenile system where records of the offence are sealed, Gordon said. The names of the child and his parents were not released.

Child thief wants to be a bandit

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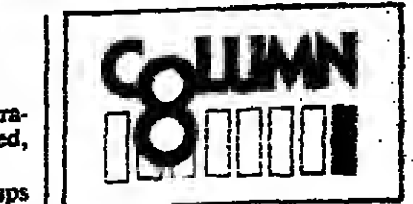
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Global weather (major world cities)

	HR.	MAX.	MIN.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	04	30	14	Cloudy
ATHENS	10	50	21	Cloudy
BAHRAIN	17	35	28	Cloudy
BANGKOK	27	81	30	57 Cloudy
Buenos Aires	14	57	27	80 Cloudy
CAIRO	14	57	27	80 Cloudy
CHICAGO	03	38	08	42 Rain
COPENHAGEN	01	30	07	45 Cloudy
FRANKFURT	07	45	11	51 Cloudy
GENOVA	02	36	08	46 Cloudy
HONG KONG	20	86	22	72 Rain
ISTANBUL	07	45	15	59 Cloudy
LONDON	10	50	18	64 Clear
LOS ANGELES	11	52	18	64 Clear
MADRID	08	37	20	68 Clear
MECCA	22	72	30	87 Cloudy
MONTREAL	09	16	02	32 Cloudy
MOSCOW	02	22	06	43 Clear
NEW DELHI	10	20	08	46 Cloudy
NEW YORK	03	37	10	50 Rain
PARIS	05	41	14	57 Clear
ROME	05	41	15	59 Clear
SYDNEY	18	68	23	73 Cloudy
TEHRAN	10	60	14	57 Cloudy
VIENNA	08	48	14	57 Cloudy

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